Kidnappers now No. 1 enemy, says Macapagal

STORY ON PAGE A2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 2001 ★★ 74 PAGES 6 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 105 ₱15

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Arafat main obstacle to peace, says Sharon**
  WORLD / A12
- **US expels 50 Russian envoys**
  WORLD / A12
- **US food giant picks RP as hub for Asia-Pacific**
  BUSINESS / B1

Manero escapes in wife's car trunk

BY NICO ALCONABA AND AQUILES ZONIO

DAVAO CITY—Convicted priest killer Norberto Manero escaped from the provincial jail in Sarangani at 2:30 a.m. yesterday, officials here said.

Manero, convicted for the killing of Italian priest Tullio Favali in 1985, escaped with the

MANERO/ A20

E-mail links Marcoses to money transfer try

BY DONNA S. CUETO

E-MAIL allegedly sent by an American friend of Irene Marcos and Gregorio "Greggy" Araneta indicated that the husband and wife were prepared to find other ways to get their funds out of Switzerland if a money-laundering scheme fell through, according to David Chaikin, the lawyer of Australian investigator Reiner Jacobi.

Chaikin claimed that the e-mail messages of American businessman Curtiss Waters suggested that the Aranetas and their friend Edna Camcam were both very tense and concerned about the delay in the transfer of funds from Union Bank of Switzerland to Dusseldorf, Germany.

In a message e-mailed on March 9 to Chaikin, Waters attached a note from the "principals' side," the lawyer said.

The note was allegedly written by Jun Camcam, Edna's son, for the Aranetas, after the couple had opened an account at Deutsche Bank and left Germany in February, according to Chaikin.

The note was addressed to Waters and focused on the Araneta

E-MAIL/ A7

Hopes dim for youth voters in SC

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO,
CATHY YAMSUAN,
GERALD LACUARTA
AND JULIET JAVELLANA

ALL APPEARS lost for many new voters whose hopes of participating in the May 14 elections were dashed by Congress' failure to pass a bill allowing a special registration.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. says the petitions filed by youth groups asking the Supreme Court to compel the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to hold the special registration may not prosper.

The registration is for the 18-year-olds who did not make it to the voter's list on Dec. 27.

A Malacañang official advised the youth to instead direct their energies to ensuring honest and orderly election should they fail to

HOPES/ A21

Estrada on cronies: They are all lying

But ex-President can't dispute $3M account in Allied Bank

JOAN BONDOC

SALUTE TO AFP

With the military top brass, President Macapagal attends the AFP's 104th anniversary rites. Flanking her are from left, Gen. Deomedio Villanueva, AFP chief of staff; Gen. Jaime de los Santos, chief, Philippine Army; Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes; Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Jose Calimlim. *(Story on Page A2.)*

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC

DEPOSED President Joseph Estrada yesterday called four of his former friends liars, including businessman Mark Jimenez who had testified that the former leader pocketed P189.7 million in commission after he ordered the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System to buy Belle Corp. shares.

Estrada has yet to dispute documents submitted by Allied Bank to Ombudsman Aniano Desierto on Wednesday showing that Jose Velarde, one of Estrada's alleged assumed names, has a $3-million account with the bank.

Business tycoon Lucio Tan owns Allied Bank, which for weeks had ignored Desierto's subpoena that it turn over all bank records of the former President and his mistresses.

In his 11-page counter-affidavit he submitted to Desierto, Estrada said he executed the affidavit to "refute the wrong, baseless and malicious imputations . . . (and) to deny that I ever demanded or received any commission from the said transactions."

Estrada was referring to allegations that he pocketed P189.7 million in commission for pressuring the SSS and the GSIS into buying 447,650,000 shares of Belle Corp. worth P1.8 billion in 1999.

He said former SSS president Carlos Arellano, former GSIS president Federico Pascual, Belle Corp. vice chair Willy Ocier and Jimenez were lying when they testified that he received the commission on Nov. 3, 1999.

"There is not a single piece of evidence which will support this case, save for the bare allegations made by people whose motives for executing are suspicious in nature

ESTRADA/ A19

THE 11TH HOUR DECISION

Duty above personal ties with Erap

BY GEN. ANGELO REYES (RET.)

(Third of a series)

BY BREAKFAST time of Jan. 19, everything seemed normal in my household. My sons left for work and school.

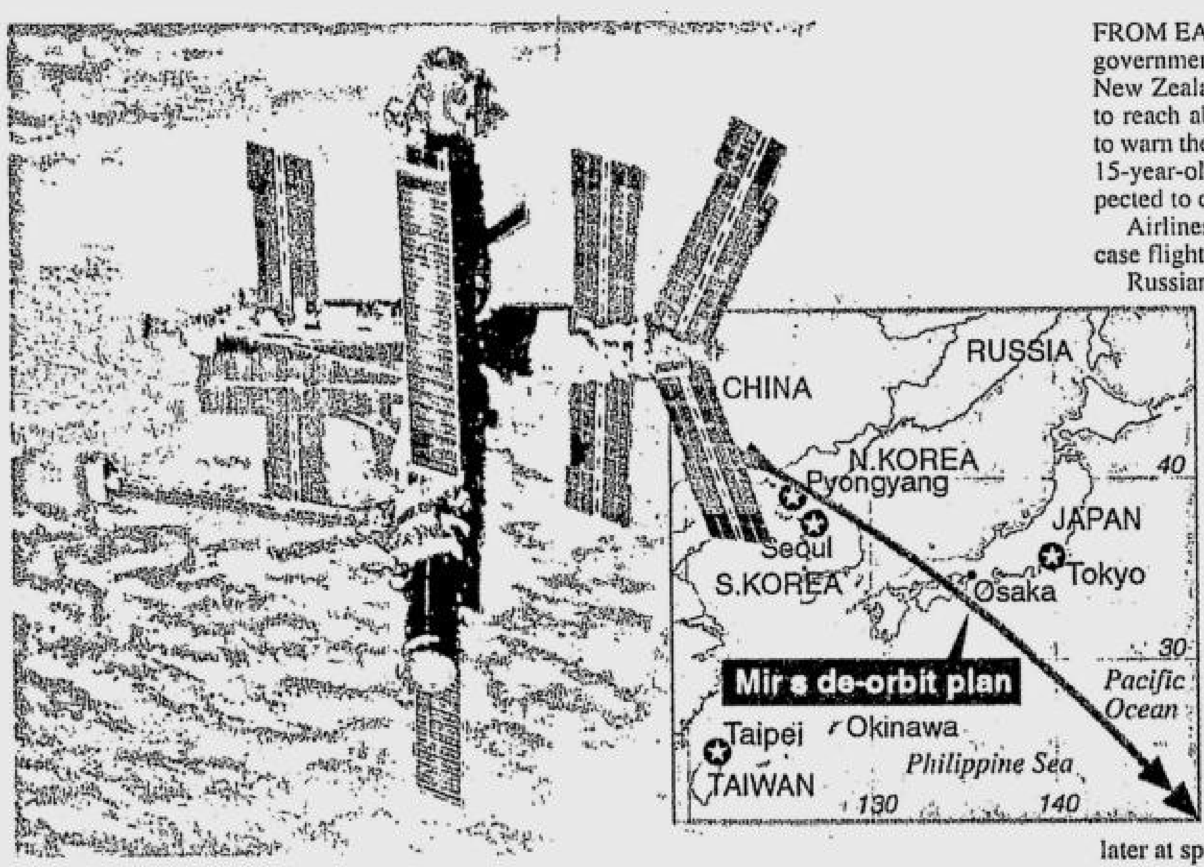
At around 7:30, my aide woke me up and told me that my staff was there to see me. They were Gen. Dionisio Santiago, head of the special operations command; Gen. Alfonso Dagudag, deputy chief of staff for operations (J3); Col. Victor Corpus; Col. Rodrigo Maclang of the joint operations center; Maj. Roy Devesa, my executive assistant, and of course Maj. Gen. Leo Alvez. Alvez was the only one who had an appointment with me.

I asked for the latest reports and developments, to have an accurate picture of the situation. The discussion lasted till about 9 a.m. At about this time my wife bid goodbye to leave for a scheduled visit to Cebu. She had no inkling of the decision I had to make that day.

Having discussed the situation, it was decision time. I asked General Alvez to stay in the dining room

DUTY/ A20

Mir crashes back to Earth today



WEIGHING about 143 tons, the Russian space station, Mir, has set several records, including the longest total time a spacecraft has spent in space—15 years. Inset is Mir's flight path in its reentry to earth. AP

FROM EASTER ISLAND to Fiji, residents and governments in the South Pacific are on alert. In New Zealand, maritime authorities were trying to reach about 30 Samoa-based fishing vessels to warn them that they were in an area where the 15-year-old Russian space station Mir was expected to crash today.

Airlines will be warned of Mir's position in case flight paths need to be altered.

Russian ground controllers powered up Mir's computer-controlled orientation system and successfully stabilized it before the craft's expected fiery descent into the South Pacific today.

Officials issued computer commands to Mir at 2335 GMT Wednesday (7:35 a.m. Thursday, Manila) to regain full control of the station. Until now, the station's onboard computer had been sending data to earth but was not receiving information or controlling the station.

Mir is scheduled to enter the earth's atmosphere during a controlled descent shortly after 0600 GMT today (2 p.m., Manila). Tons of debris will hit the ocean minutes later at speeds fast enough to crash through two meters of reinforced concrete.

MIR/ A19

Gloria names Roces new censors chief

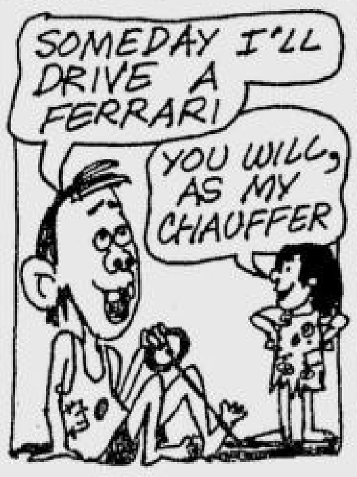
BY LEAH SALTERIO,
GERALD LACUARTA
AND DONNA CUETO

IN THE storm swirling around her decision to ban "Live Show," President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday appointed educator Alejandro Roces as new chair of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board to replace Nick Tiongson, who resigned Wednesday to protest the "repression of freedom of expression."

Also named as the 12 other members of the MTRCB were a group of mostly liberal figures from the world of entertainment and the arts: Behn Cervantes, Jaime Fabregas, June Keithley-Castro, Fr. Nicasio Cruz, Noel Trinidad, Marra Lanot, Nicholas Pichay, Alfred Yuson, Efren Montano, Rustica Carpio, Eric Mallonga and Ma. Victoria Cu.

Roces, 76, a multi-awarded writer, was education secretary under Ms Macapagal's late father.

GLORIA/ A6



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YOU WILL, AS MY CHAUFFER
30

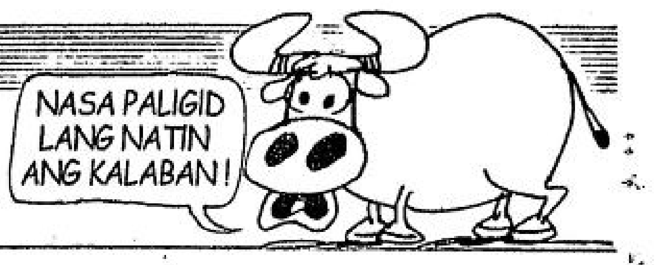
Ferrari revs up traffic in Jakarta

ITALIAN luxury sportscar maker Ferrari, winner of the wacky Formula One race last weekend in Malaysia, has come up with a wacky idea: it has opened a dealership in nearby Indonesia, one of the world's poorest countries and home to some of its most impenetrable traffic jams.

"We didn't come here to sell more cars, because we don't need to, honestly," Ferrari regional sales

FERRARI/ A20

Second FRONT PAGE


NASA PALIGID LANG NATIN ANG KALABAN!

GMA: Kidnappers No. 1 enemy

By Volt Contreras

"THE ENEMY is no longer the rebel in the mountains but the kidnapper lurking on the street corner," President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said, as she ordered the military to help police fight kidnap gangs and smugglers.

"Since there is no more war, I have asked the chief of staff of the Armed Forces to increase their assistance to the Philippine National Police in the war against crime, especially kidnapping and smuggling," Ms Macapagal said in a speech before the Army.

Her statement came on the heel of reports of increased kidnappings in the country, the latest of which involved a 5-year-old school boy who was abducted Tuesday by unidentified men in Calapan, Oriental Mindoro.

Ms Macapagal did not say how many soldiers—or from which units they would come—would be fielded for police work.

The military has 113,000 soldiers, including about 70,000 in the Army which has eight combat divisions.

The Macapagal administration has been plagued by a wave of violent kidnappings that ended in the murder of four young victims in the past month.

Recently, Ms Macapagal ordered the deployment of 1,000 more policemen on city streets to check crime.

The latest kidnapping incident occurred on Tuesday when two men seized kindergarten student Remar Medina and his babysitter on their way home from school in Calapan.

The suspects have demanded an unspecified amount in ransom.

Police records showed that in the last week alone, at least seven persons were kidnapped, with one of the victims killed and his body dumped into the Pasig River.

The kidnapping cases in chronological order:

- March 14—Businessman Marco Sia, 38, had just left his farm at 6:15 p.m. in Sitio Kaylawig, Sta. Maria, Bulacan, and was driving his Nissan Ultra Eagle when five armed men in a gray Mitsubishi Adventure (LTO Control No. 789) blocked his path.

At gunpoint, Sia was forced to get in the suspects' vehicle which sped toward Sapang Palay.

At 10:30 p.m., an unidentified man phoned his family to demand an undetermined amount in ransom. Negotiations are still ongoing.

- Also on March 14, police learned about the abductions of Trisia Al Sharif, and Almalin and Jenalyn Jimlans. It was not clear in the report obtained by the INQUIRER whether the three victims were related.

- On March 15, Mark Welson Chua, a sophomore mechanical engineering student at the University of Santo Tomas, was kidnapped by unidentified armed men who asked for P3 million in ransom.

Two days later, his body was found floating in the Pasig River under the Ayala Bridge in Quiapo, Manila. The body was positively identified by his father.

The report said Chua's kidnappers grew impatient when his father failed to immediately produce the ransom. The suspects reportedly gave their ultimatum through "text" messaging.

- On March 18, Indian national Iqbal Singh, 40, was seized by kidnappers in Gerona, Tarlac. The suspects initially asked for P50 million but eventually settled for P15 million. The "payoff" was scheduled last Wednesday night in Victoria, Tarlac.

- On March 20, at around 2 p.m., Medina was abducted in front of his school, the Divine Word College.

His family has received two phone calls from a person demanding an unspecified amount in ransom.

The week before that, the big kidnapping story was the abduction of two University of the Philippines-Baguio students who were later killed by their abductors. *With an AFP report*

Military gets more benefits

By Armand N. Nocum

SO, who's afraid of the military?

Not President Macapagal-Arroyo who said yesterday that she was not giving juicy posts to top military officers and benefits to the rank and file out of fear.

"But I do not have to be afraid of you, my soldiers," she said in a speech during the Philippine Army's 104th anniversary at Fort Bonifacio, Makati.

"In fact, I feel safe with you because you are an Army that is constitutionally oriented and with a well-developed culture of professionalism," she added.

The President was reacting to "those who criticize me for coddling the Armed Forces," with the "more malicious" claiming "that I am trying to appease our soldiers to keep them from being restive and potentially rebellious."

She said she was granting benefits to the military because the soldiers deserve them.

As in her previous speeches before official gatherings of the Armed Forces, the President announced the granting of more benefits to the military.

Yesterday, she announced that she had signed into law two bills—one granting tax exemptions to allowances of military personnel, and the other raising the gratuity for the Medal of Valor awardees.

Soldiers assigned in Mindanao will also be getting a rice subsidy.

She said the benefits were similar to those granted to teachers.

In her speech, she also explained why she was pursuing peace as the "preferred strategy" in her administration.

Wong adviser on China

FORMER Navy chief Rear Admiral Guillermo Wong has been appointed presidential consultant on Philippine-China concerns following renewed tension between the two countries, particularly over the disputed Scarborough Shoal.

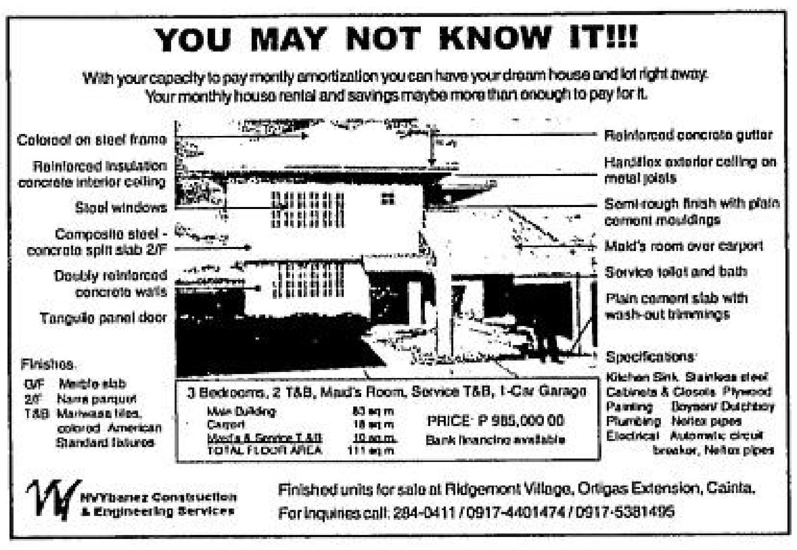
Wong, who traces his roots to Canton, China, will hold this position on a temporary basis pending a permanent appointment to a new post.

Wong, who has gone on floating status since he was forced to step down as the Navy flag officer in command, plans to retire this August, four months before his scheduled retirement.

"The President felt that his talents should be immediately harnessed and not put to waste while waiting for his early retirement in August," a source said. "The President has not forgotten him."

Wong's appointment as presidential adviser may be announced next month or in May before Vice President Teofisto Guingona visits China, according to the source.

An ambassadorial post or the chairmanship of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority reportedly awaits Wong when he retires. *Carlito Pablo*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Time 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Schedule B
Date April 18, 2001 (Wed.)
Time 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Other Seminar on schedule for March and April
I. 1st Quarter Tax Administration Update
Schedule A
Date March 28, 2001 (Wednesday) Module I
March 31, 2001 (Saturday) Module II
Schedule B
Date April 2, 2001 (Monday) Module I
April 4, 2001 Wednesday) Module II
II. Updates on Labor Standards and Labor Relation
Schedule A
Date March 26, 2001 (Tuesday) Module I
Time 11:00 - 5:30 p.m.
Schedule B
Date April 3, 2001 (Tuesday)
Time 11:00 - 5:30 p.m.
III. Marketing Skills Workshop
Schedule A
Date April 19-20, 2001 (Thurs./Fri.)
Schedule B
Date April 26-27, 2001 (Thurs./Fri.)
Time 11:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
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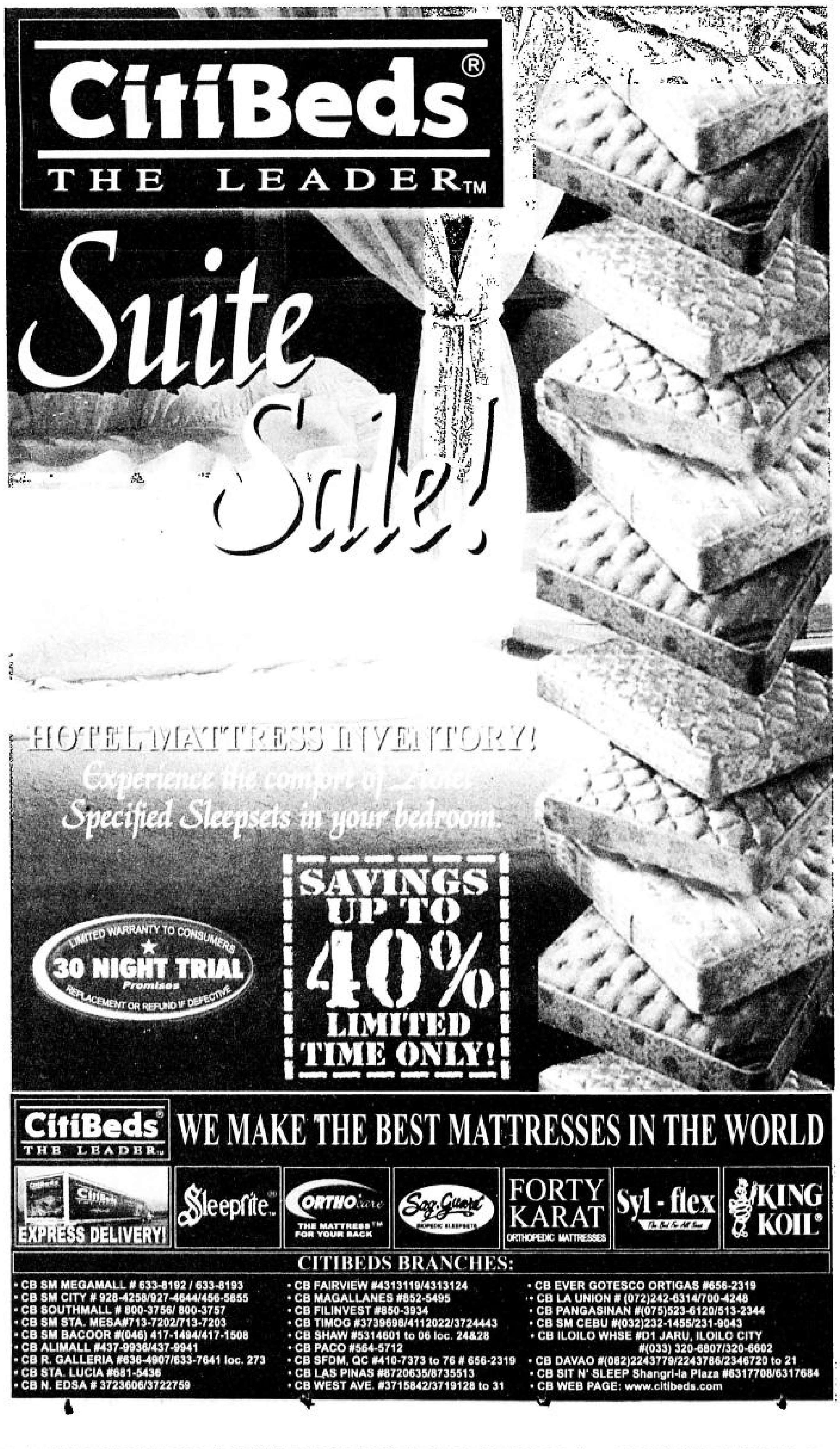
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Big RP-US drills slated next month

MORE than 4,000 US and Philippine troops will hold major drills, including live-fire exercises, in the country for two weeks starting next month, an official said yesterday.

The exercises are the second to be held in the Philippines since the Senate approved in 1999 an accord allowing renewed large-scale joint exercises and US ship visits.

Elmer Cato, spokesperson of a government commission overseeing the exercises, said slight changes would be made in the exercises to be held from April 27 to May 10 because of local and congressional elections to be held on May 14.

Philippine law prohibits large troop movements during elections, limiting the exercises. Many soldiers were also needed to secure balloting, Cato said.

Both countries also adjusted the date of the exercises, which were jointly approved last year, so they would not fall on the actual polling day and create possible disruptions, he said.

More than 2,000 soldiers from each country will join the exercises called Balikatan, the Philippine word for "shouldering the load together," to be held at Clark, a former US Air Force base north of Manila, and two Philippine military bases.

Some of the exercises will be held near South China Sea areas being contested by China and the Philippines.

But Cato said the exercises had nothing to do with the territorial disputes.

The Philippines, United States and Thailand completed on Wednesday their first joint naval search and rescue exercise in the sea off the western coast of the main northern Luzon Island.

The Senate approved the Visiting Forces Agreement in 1999 allowing the renewal of joint military exercises, which were suspended for a few years over several questions including jurisdiction over US soldiers who might commit crimes in the country. *AP*

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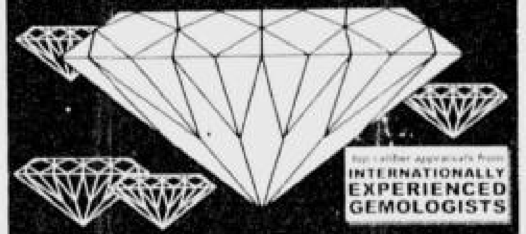

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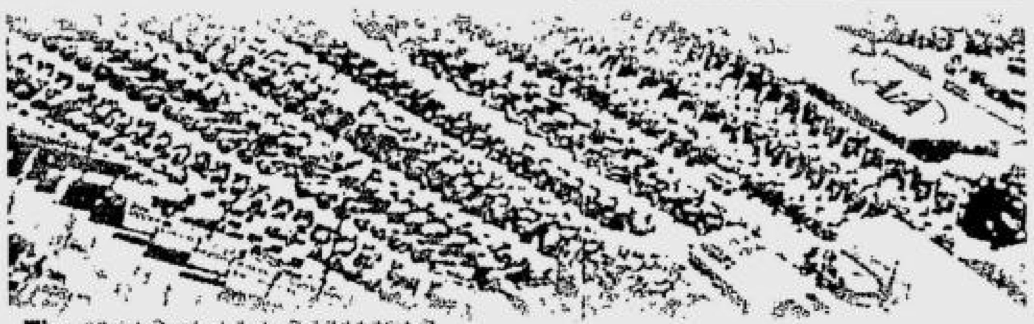

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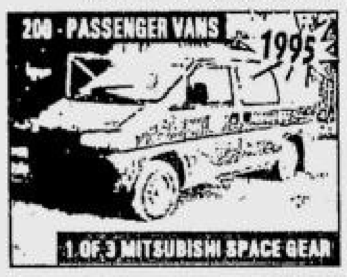
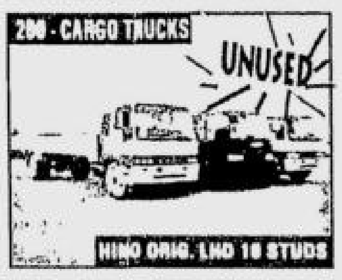

200 - PASSENGER VANS
1995
1 OF 3 MITSUBISHI SPACE GEAR

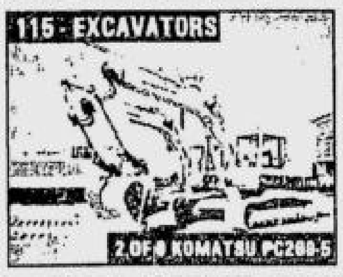
95 - DUMP TRUCKS
UNUSED
ISUZU GIGA CXZ

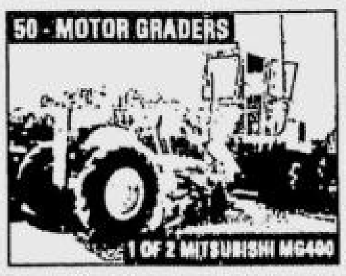

200 - CARGO TRUCKS
UNUSED
HINO ORIG. LHD 10 STUDS

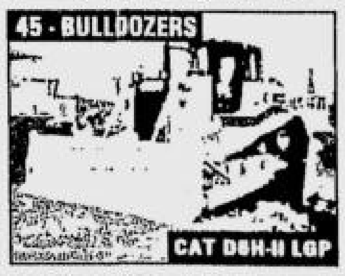
10 - TRACTOR HEADS
INTERNATIONAL LT-10

40 - WING VANS
REEFER
ISUZU FORWARD REF. WING VAN

60 - GEN. SETS
5 OF 60 10-250 KVA GENSETS


115 - EXCAVATORS
2 OF 8 KOMATSU PC200-5


50 - MOTOR GRADERS
1 OF 2 MITSUBISHI MG400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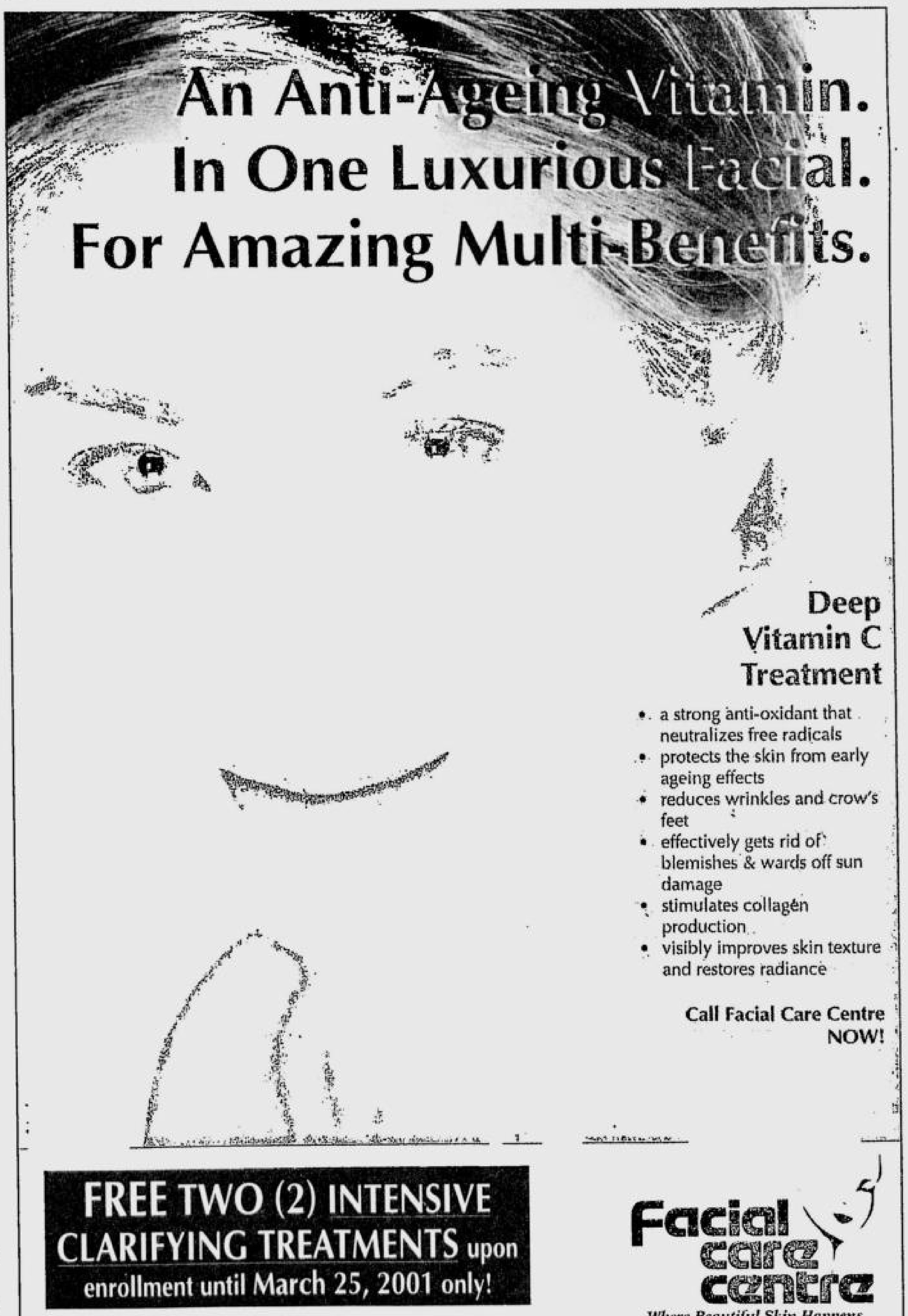

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Bongbong, Imee file certificates of candidacy

LAOAG CITY—A week before the start of the campaign period for local candidates, Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Wednesday filed his substitute candidacy for another term, ending speculations that he was seeking another post.

His sister, incumbent Rep. Imee Marcos, also filed for substitution to run unopposed in Ilocos Norte's second congressional district.

Their lawyer filed the substitute candidacies on their behalf before the Commission on Elections here.

Governor Marcos substituted for Efren Saguiguit, an employee of the provincial government's community affairs office, while Imee Marcos replaced Theodore Mirasol, a retired Philippine National Bank official.

Both Saguiguit and Mirasol are members of the Marcoses' Kilusang Bagong Lipunan.

Marcos is running against Eric Fariñas, younger brother of Ilocos Norte Rep. Rodolfo Fariñas.

Rodolfo Fariñas is expected to substitute his niece Chevylle Fariñas in the first district. He will be facing former Rep. Roque Ablan Jr., a Marcos ally; Lorna Foz, a provincial capitol employee whom the governor fielded; and Vicentito Lazo of Reporma.

Marcos has yet to declare whether he would be substituting for Foz to run against Fariñas or he would be endorsing Ablan.

Fariñas told dzVR Bombo Radyo-Laoag that he was still running for congressman and that he delayed the filing of his candidacy to give Marcos "a dose of his own medicine."

Fariñas fielded his relatives whom he called the "lucky combination" he used in 1998 to key provincial positions.

He said he was forced to do so because Marcos, Fariñas' erstwhile ally, did the same thing hours before the Feb. 28 deadline for the filing of candidacies for local candidates lapsed.

It was Fariñas, however, who fashioned the substitution process as an election tactic in 1998.

Marcos has yet to confirm who among the local candidates nominated by the Lakas-NUCD would be included in the KBL lineup.

He said cases of multiple candidates nominated to the same position by Lakas had to be cleared first. "But if Lakas cannot figure out who their candidates are, we will have to do it for them."

Marcos is expected to announce his official lineup on April 3, in time for the KBL's proclamation rally.

Marcos said the KBL, which is coalescing with Lakas, was close to finalizing the senatorial candidates it would endorse. He refused to name the candidates.

"Once we come out in the campaign period, we will include the senators in our streamers. Until now, a lot of them (senatorial candidates) are still asking for help. But we're still looking around. We are eyeing those who can help the province or those who have already helped," he said. *Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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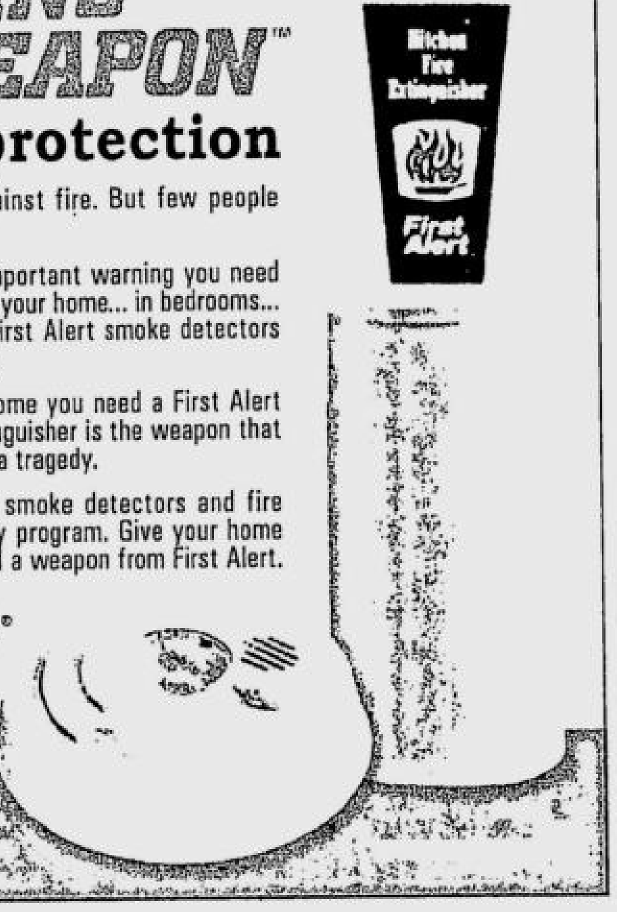

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Comelec to tear down illegal posters

THE COMMISSION on Elections will tear down today campaign posters illegally pasted outside common poster areas in Metro Manila, but it was unclear if charges will be filed against violators.

Ferdinand Rafanan, Comelec director for the National Capital Region, said the tearing down of posters was aimed at sending the message that the poll body would not tolerate violations of the Fair Elections Act.

The cleaning operation is part of the Comelec's "Oplan Baklas" in cooperation with the Philippine National Police, nongovernment organizations, barangay officials and community-based citizens groups.

It was learned the Metro Manila Development Authority was conducting its own Oplan Baklas.

"Even if the size (of the campaign materials) and locations are correct, but if there is no formation (of the printer and the one who paid for the posters) we will remove them," Rafanan said.

Rafanan admitted that candidates had not been complying with regulations of the Fair Elections Act on the use of campaign materials like posters and streamers.

Rafanan said the Comelec-NCR office would recommend to the Comelec law department the filing of charges against violators.

Punishment range from one to six months imprisonment, P2,000 fine and denial of right to vote and run for public office.

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F. Option to treat Pag-ibig benefits as Retirement benefits
G. Wages and Wage related benefits
H. Procedures during labor inspection and mandatory reportorial requirements
I. Other update and guidelines of Program and Thrusts of DOLE
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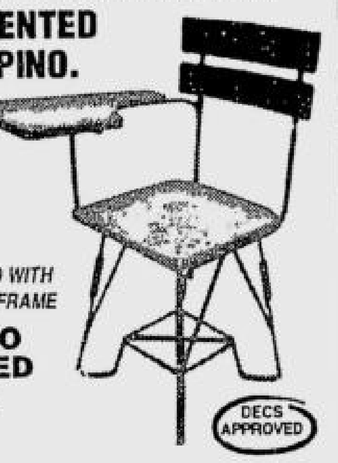

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Prayers urged for clean polls

By C.V. Esguerra

THE CHURCH is encouraging the public to pray the rosary for 50 days for the success of the ongoing peace talks with rebel groups and clean elections in May.

The appeal will be carried out through the "50 Rosaries for 50 Days" project of the Family Rosary Crusade beginning Sunday. It aims to encourage the faithful to turn to the rosary to resolve the burning issues in government.

"I endorse this worthwhile activity to our parishes, schools, and communities," said Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin.

"Let us join together in prayer. We have already proven the power of prayer in our nation's history."

The project will kick off with a national telethon tomorrow night to be participated in by show business personalities such as Johnny Delgado, his wife Laurice Guillen and Mitch Valdes among others.

The campaign will run until May 13, the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima and the eve of the elections.

Kanlaon off limits to climbers

BACOLOD CITY—Authorities ordered climbers to keep away from a 4-km "danger zone" around the crater of a Western Visayan volcano on Thursday because of a possible eruption.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said "earthquake clusters" were recently monitored on Kanlaon Volcano on Negros Island, about 520 km south of Manila.

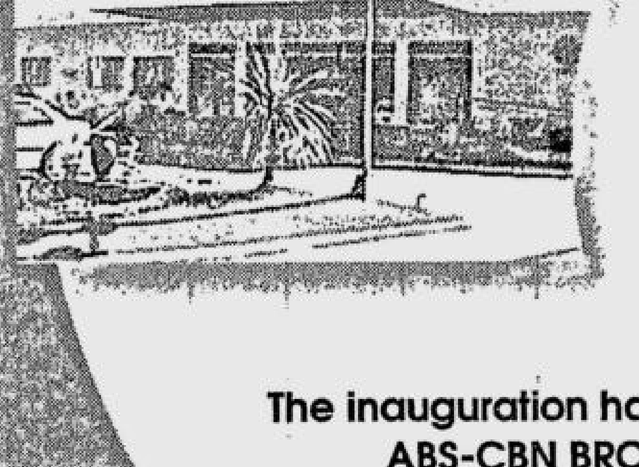
The quakes could be precursors to a sudden ash ejection, the institute said.

The earthquakes were similar to those that occurred before an ash explosion in August 1996 that killed a Briton and two Filipino climbers, who were near the crater when the volcano spewed ash 1,500 meters into the sky.

None of Kanlaon's 29 eruptions recorded since 1866 have been destructive.

Dozens of mountain climbers are expected to scale the 2,435-meter volcano during the Holy Week in April.

Negros Occidental Gov. Rafael Coscolluela also ordered a ban on the traditional Holy Week trek by hundreds of "babaylans" or native shamans, who consider the volcano holy ground. *AP*



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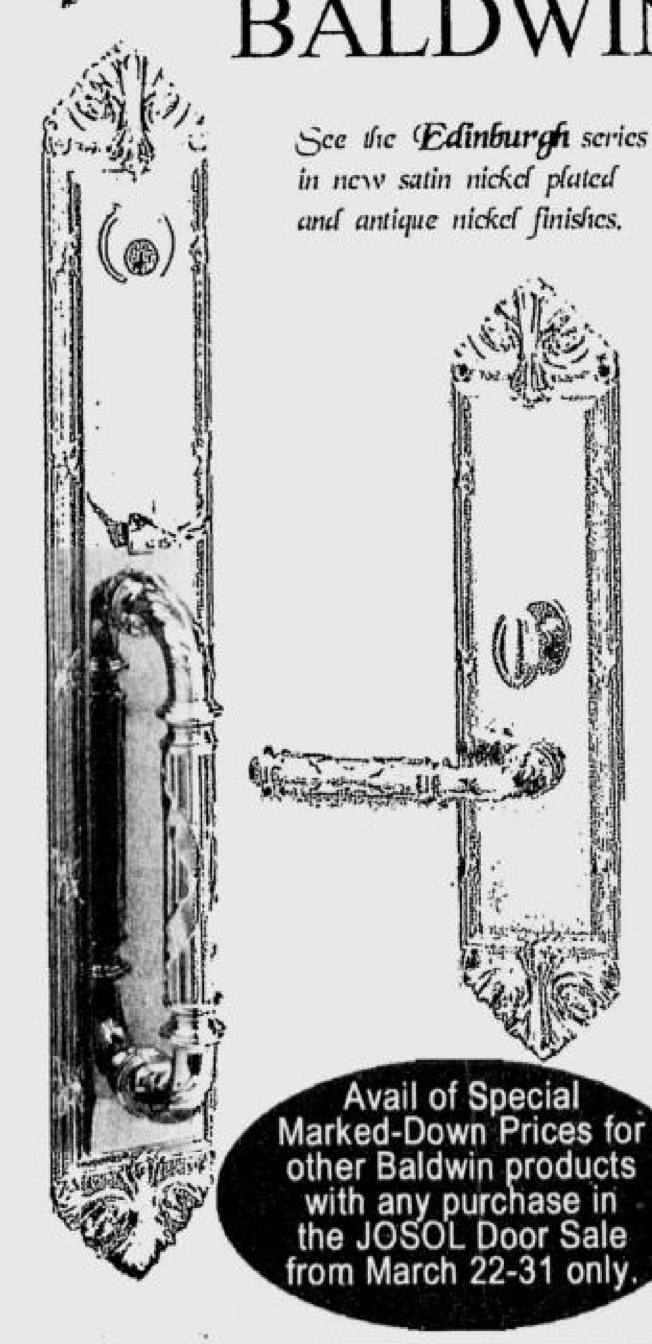

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Gov't told to return $8.5M to US firm

BAGUIO CITY—The Supreme Court has directed the government to return $8.56 million to an American firm that had bought an "erroneously" sequestered jet from the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

In a 12-page decision penned by Associate Justice Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez, the SC third division ordered Tuesday that the $8,568,905.55 being held in escrow at the Philippine National Bank be returned to the Walter Fuller Aircraft Sales Inc. which bought the jet in September 1989.

The high court also directed the PCGG to take "immediate appropriate action" against its personnel who were involved in the unauthorized sale of the aircraft.

The Supreme Court is holding its summer session in this mountain resort city.

The government had earlier petitioned the Supreme Court to review the Sandiganbayan's refusal to release the escrow funds to satisfy the terms of an agreement between the PCGG and Fuller Aircraft.

Fuller had filed a civil suit against the PCGG in a US court and was awarded $14.9 million in damages.

United Coconut Chemicals Inc. (Unichem) leased the jet, a Breguet Falcon 50 1982 model, from Faysound Ltd. of the United States.

The jet was not returned after its lease expired in 1987 but was sequestered by the government in an order issued by the PCGG against Unichem stockholder Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. and 60 other company officials.

Two years after the lease expired, the PCGG asked the Sandiganbayan for authority to sell the aircraft because it was fast deteriorating.

The Sandiganbayan denied the request on May 18, 1989, and the PCGG sought a temporary restraining order to prevent the graft court from enforcing its resolution.

With TRO in hand, the PCGG sold the airplane on Sept. 28, 1989 to Fuller Aircraft for $7,138,168.

With the issue of the jet's ownership still pending before the Sandiganbayan, Faysound filed an action before the District Court of Arkansas to recover the plane from Fuller Aircraft.

The Arkansas court granted Faysound's motion and directed Fuller to return the jet.

Fuller then turned its ire on the PCGG and sued the commission and the Philippine government for breach of warranty before the District Court of Texas.

In 1993, the Texas court directed the PCGG and the Philippine government to be "solidarily liable" to Fuller in the amount of $14.9 million.

The PCGG convinced Fuller to agree to installment payments. The PCGG then asked the Sandiganbayan to release the $8.56 million held in escrow to pay Fuller.

The Sandiganbayan, however, denied the PCGG's motion, despite pleas from the government that it would have to pay $2,000 a day in penalties if the agreed-upon settlement with Fuller was not paid on time.

In absolving the government of any liability, the Supreme Court said the PCGG had erroneously taken the jet into its custody after Cojuangco and his co-defendants did not contest its sequestration.

The high court bewailed the fact that after more than a decade, the Sandiganbayan has failed to determine who was entitled to the escrow account of $8.56 million.

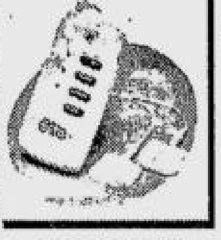
The court also said the government could not be held liable under the agreement the PCGG inked with Fuller because the sale had not been authorized by the Sandiganbayan.

"It is the legal duty of the government to return the $8.56 million escrow deposit," the decision said. *Delmar Cariño and Gobleth Moulic, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Rape story saddens bishops

THE CATHOLIC Bishops Conference of the Philippines held an emergency meeting yesterday in reaction to a news report that the Vatican had confirmed reports that some priests and missionaries in 23 countries, including the Philippines had been raping nuns.

"We are saddened by this report," CBCP media officer Msgr. Hernando Coronel said in a TV interview. *G.G. Lacuarta*



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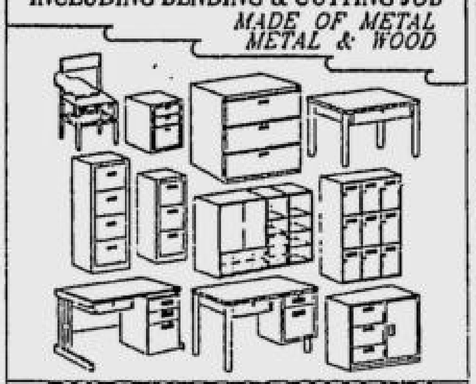

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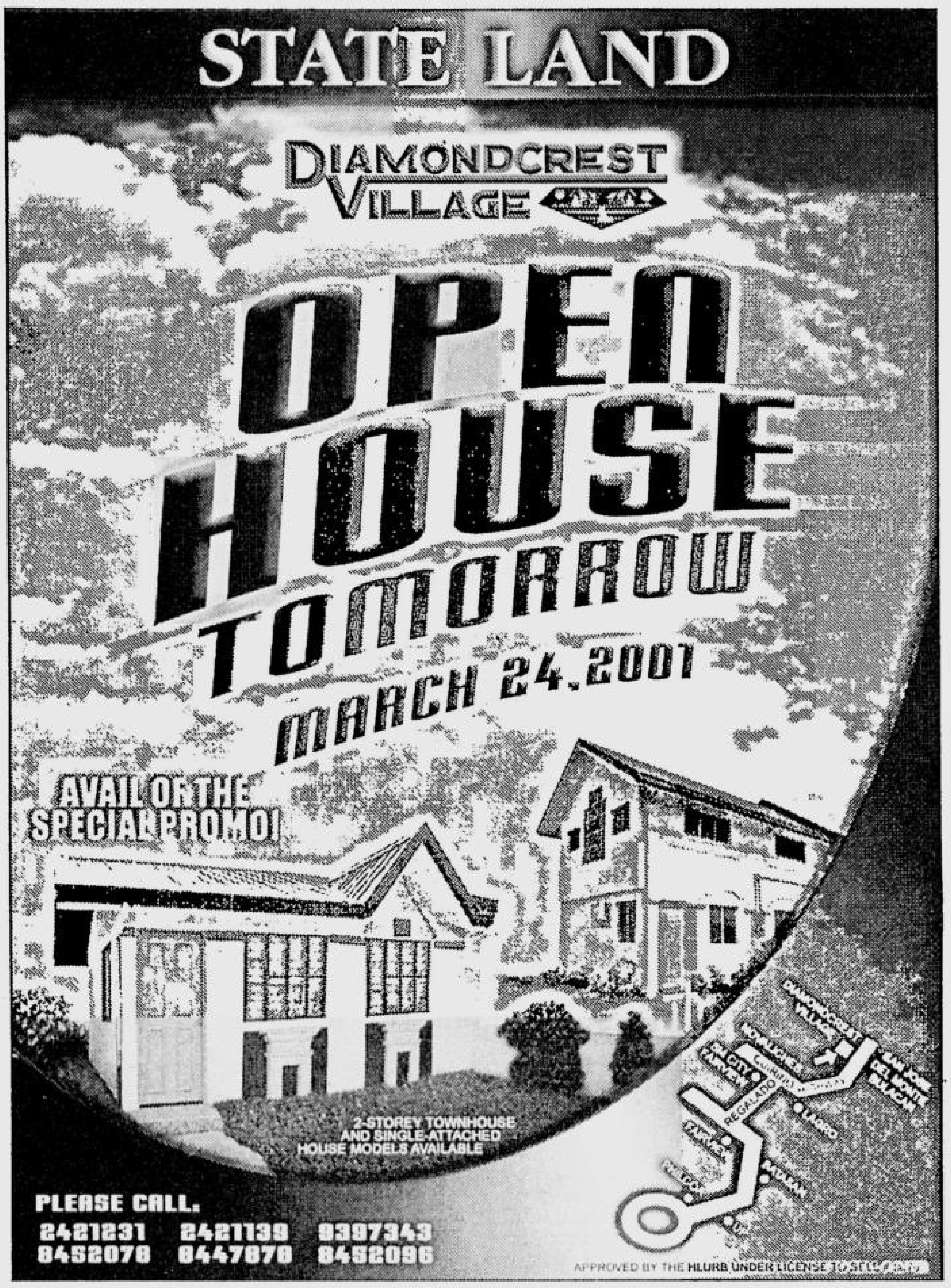

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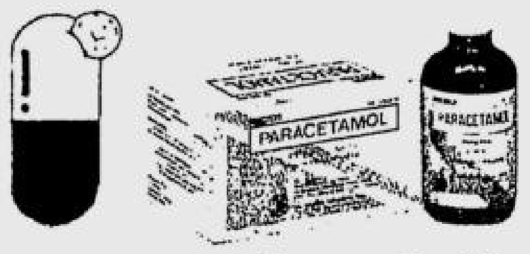

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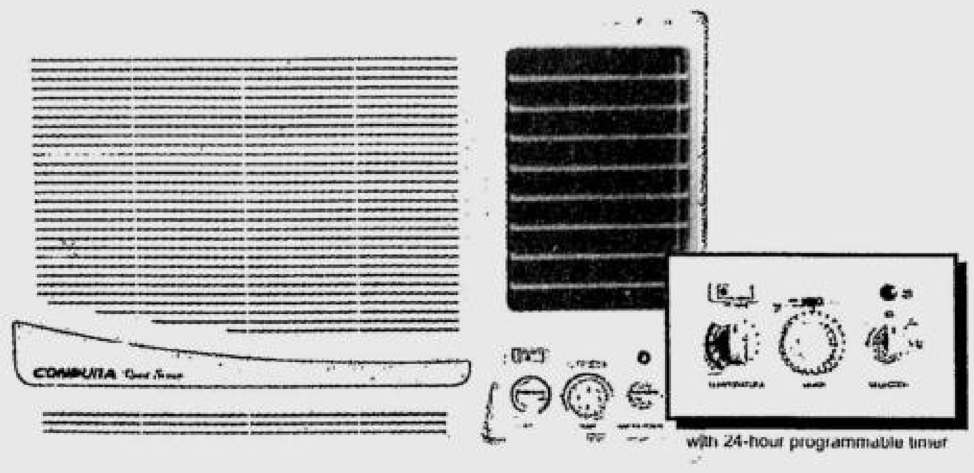

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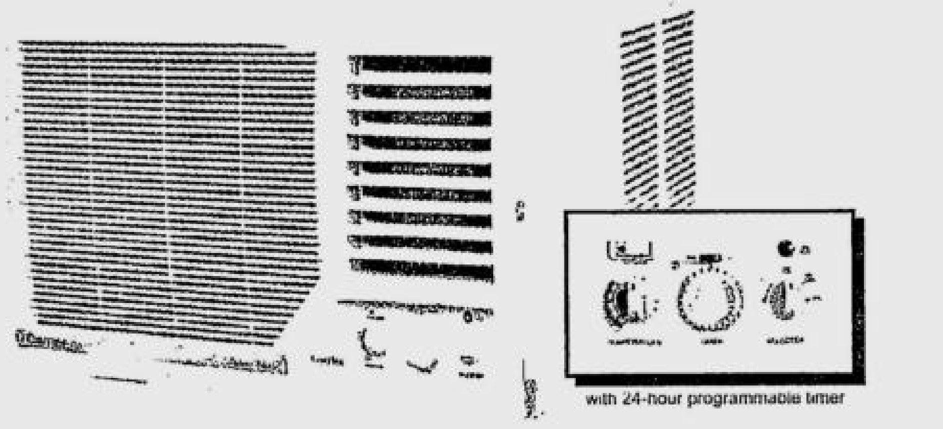

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Gloria names Roces new censors chief

(From page A1)

The appointments were announced as members of the movie industry threatened to campaign against all 13 of Ms Macapagal's hand-picked senatorial candidates in the May elections.

The Concerned Artists of the Philippines (CAP) and the Directors' Guild of the Philippines Inc. (DGPI) joined forces to announce a protest march to Malacañang on Monday, a one-day filming and taping work stoppage, and the "0-13" campaign against the candidates of the People Power Coalition.

As a heated debate continued over whether pornography is in the eye of the beholder, the film's director, Jose Javier Reyes, said the President should have first seen the "Live Show" before revoking its exhibition permit earlier this week.

"I wish she saw it first to allow her to make an informed decision. It cannot possibly be pornographic," Reyes said in a radio interview.

Presidential Spokesperson Renato Corona said Ms Macapagal had not personally seen the film about young men and women performers who engage in sex onstage at nightclubs, but had asked aides to review it for her.

Corona said a three-man Palace "appeals committee" would review the film on Monday to decide whether to lift the ban. The committee includes himself, the press secretary and Sonia Ronda, the head of a Catholic women's group who had reportedly objected to the showing of the film in the first place.

Macapagal aides said the movie, which premiered at the Berlin Film Festival last year, had graphic sex scenes and that the President merely employed the police powers of the state to protect public morals.

Sin 'saddened'

But rhetorical language flared with accusations of "clerico-fascism" and "frailocracy," as groups from different sectors lashed out at Ms Macapagal for allegedly bowing to pressure from Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin and "ultra-conservative" groups to revoke the film's exhibition permit.

Sin, for his part, defended both the President and himself against criticism that the Church was meddling in government affairs.

"It saddens me to hear that the President's laudable disposition to be a listening President is being misinterpreted as weakness," the cardinal said in a one-page statement.

Tiongson had accused Sin of acting like a "political tactician" during a meeting on Saturday, when the cleric harshly berated him for not doing his job.

In response, Sin admitted, "I can be passionate and intense at times," but added, "I do get passionate when morality is being damaged and our cherished moral values are being eroded."

But Reyes accused the Church of bigotry for allegedly putting pressure on Ms Macapagal to censor the film.

"We artists merely reflect what we see," he said. "I believe in the separation of the Church and State."

And director Mike de Leon called Cardinal Sin a "meddlesome priest."

"Will no one rid us of him?" De Leon complained.

Reyes, however, did not denounce the President's right to make the decision or the views of "moralists."

"That is within the powers of the President and it is her legal right to pull out the film, considering that the MTRCB is under the powers of the President," Reyes said.

Ironically, movie reviewers of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) had found the film fit for adult viewing in a March 9 review.

And just as ironically, the recent publicity has drawn flocks of the curious to downtown theaters still showing the film, which did not previously fare very well at the box office, according to television news reports.

March

Actors, directors and producers will convene on Morayta and will march from the Far Eastern University (FEU) to Malacañang, starting 1 p.m. Monday.

In respective statements, the CAP and the DGPI predictably supported Tiongson's decision to resign and attacked censorship.

"It was agreed during our meeting there will be no shooting or taping on Monday to give way to the rally," said director Gil Portes.

"Live Show" producer Lily Monteverde noted that the banning of the film had unified members of the film industry.

"It's very encouraging to know we are united in the belief of freedom of expression," she said. "The very reason we are gathered is to protect that freedom. Without it, worldwide cinema cannot be possible."

The spokesperson of the militant group Sanlakas, Wilson Fortaleza, warned that censorship was the first step toward greater political repression.

"Today it is free expression in culture that Macapagal suppresses. Tomorrow it is legitimate dissent in politics that government will repress. If we allow "Live Show" to be censored, it is not far off when political rallies will be dispersed," he said.

Gomburza, the national association of militant priests and pastors, accused Ms Macapagal of kowtowing to Church authorities.

"If there are some big shots from the Church who speak of something, she's always ready with her 'amen,'" Fr. Raul Enriquez, vice chair of Gomburza, said in Lucena City.

The Progressive Organization of Gays in the Philippines (Progay) defended the movie for "confirm(ing) the view that prostitution is indeed an exploitative trade."

"Let us not fall into this narrow trap of moralizing," Progay said in a statement. "We should let thoughtful critiques such as 'Live Show' tell us to our faces that (the lack of) basic social services are driving our women and men into slavery."

Define policy on porn

Sen. Gregorio Honasan yesterday asked the government to define its policy on pornography in movies and television, as he lamented Tiongson's resignation.

But the reelectionist senator wanted more drastic action, not less. He said that the government, instead of condemning one film, must go all out against all forms of pornography, such as closing movie houses exhibiting X-rated movies and nightclubs presenting "lewd" shows.

Lay groups associated with the Catholic Church have been instrumental in the banning of a number of acclaimed Hollywood films in the past, including Oscar winners "Schindler's List" and "The Piano." Both films, well reviewed internationally, featured nudity.

Then President Fidel Ramos subsequently overturned the bans. ***With reports from Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Jowel Canuday, PDI Mindanao; AFP***

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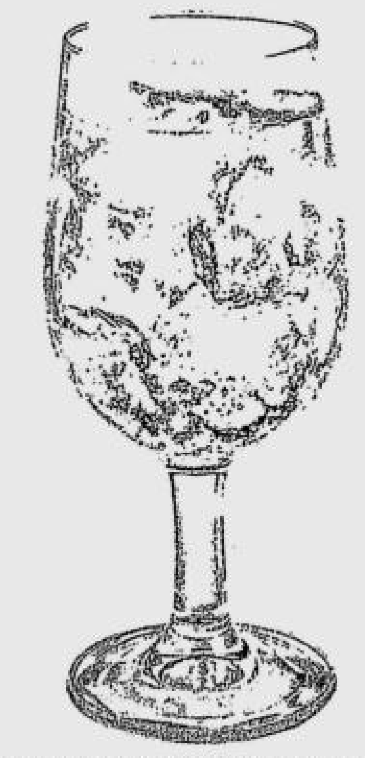

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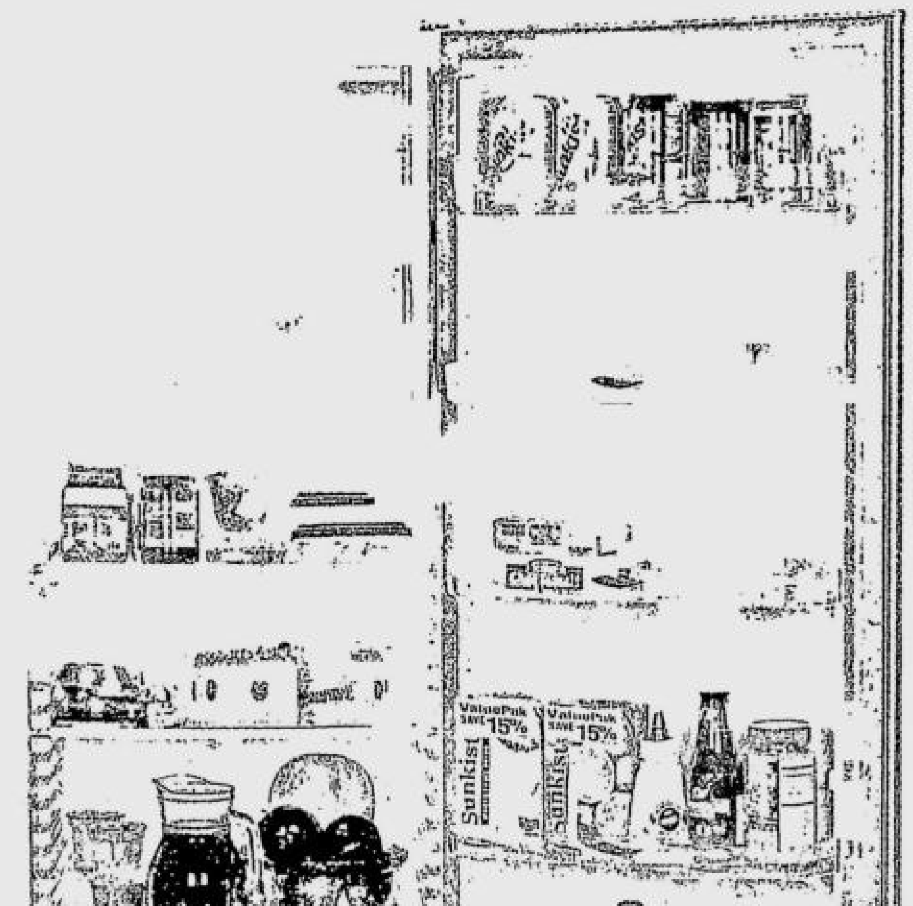

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E-mail links Marcoses to money transfer try

(From page A1)

couple's concern that a deal allegedly coordinated by another American friend, Hank Hutcherson, was going nowhere.

The Aranetas had reportedly been dealing with a "friendly banker" whom they thought Hutcherson had provided, but the banker was part of a trap set up by Jacobi to prove that the Marcoses still had ill-gotten wealth in Switzerland.

The e-mail read: "If they (Hutcherson and company) can't do this, just leave it to us. Just furnish us the information. We will use our own people at the top management inside both banks.

"After all, Hank and co., is (sic) covered with a mandate, albeit (sic) g.a. (Greggy Araneta) 'might' renegotiate our fees."

The message was apparently referring to an alleged money-sharing agreement between the Aranetas, Hutcherson and Camcam.

"(Please) offer some concrete assurances, mom and the couple are ready to pack it up. UK's getting to be cold and expensive. Get something real on Tuesday. (Please) go there (please)," the note allegedly written by Jun Camcam read.

Chaikin said the message also showed the trust that the Aranetas placed in Waters, who has denied any wrongdoing and has accused Jacobi and Chaikin of framing him and his friends.

From Jun with love?

"Friend, you've often said you're protecting us. Can you see to the operations personally? Can you fly to the site and confirm everything (they are) you? You talk to the bankers etc. Surely, they can't object to that?" Jun Camcam allegedly wrote to Waters.

"G.A. is again disappointed at the thought that a delay seems inevitable, not to mention our credibility's skating on very thin ice," another portion read.

"Curtiss, who's really calling the shots and why can't there seem to be a certainty with regard to the dates being given?"

"Please don't misunderstand, the group is very patient. It's been 15 years since 1986, I hope that's proof enough. What concerns (Greggy Araneta) and the group is the ability and credibility of the operators. Are you talking to the right people? That guy at DB (Deutsche Bank) looks like a clerk. Do they even have the right info? Or is all this a fishing expedition?"

According to Waters' own alleged e-mail message, he was confused over the way things were going. He hinted that he might advise the Aranetas to "retreat" from the transaction.

"Okay, I think it is time to retreat now. Our people are getting too impatient with all of this uncertainty and most especially with the way this operation is going especially with regards to NO INFORMATION coming from the man who is supposed to be in the know. I am afraid everyone has reached the point of withdrawing everything," he said.

Confusion

"Here is our confusion and the cause of everyone dropping this immediately. First you and RJ (Reiner Jacobi) leave the place (Germany) where everything is supposed to happen. No one can reach anyone from your side, although you have been kind enough to respond to our urgent e-mails. Point is we cannot even get a hold of either of you and this is wrong and suspect as far as our people are concerned," the letter read.

"You say RJ is on his way back but nevertheless WE cannot reach him. You say send the bank authorization and we did this AND YET TO THIS DAY YOU CANNOT TELL US ONE THING THAT IS GOING ON. It has been (four) days since the bank received authorization to proceed and we still hear nothing," it read.

The letter was referring to a March 5 authorization allegedly signed by Irene Araneta and faxed directly from Manila to the Deutsche Bank branch in Dusseldorf.

"David, it is past time for you to tell us EXACTLY what is really going on. I realize you have to protect your client RJ (Jacobi) but I think you also have a moral obligation to us to tell us what you know, what exactly is really happening and what RJ is really up to," it said.

Problems

The e-mail said that the lack of information "is causing lots of problems for us."

"Hank and I put our names on the line and Hank has spent large sums of monies in order to help you so I fail to see why you will not tell us anything," it said.

The letter said Waters would speak to Hutcherson and that "it may be time for us to inform our people to withdraw Friday morning European time (March 16)."

"I suggest you might call Hank or myself and just be as honest as you can be about all of this-IT IS TIME FOR DISCLOSURE," the e-mail read.

The Inquirer tried again yesterday to get the Aranetas' response but could not reach them. Their lawyer Eleazar Reyes also refused to make any comment yesterday. His secretary said he would not grant any interviews.

CONTINUED silence from the Araneta couple, Greggy and Irene

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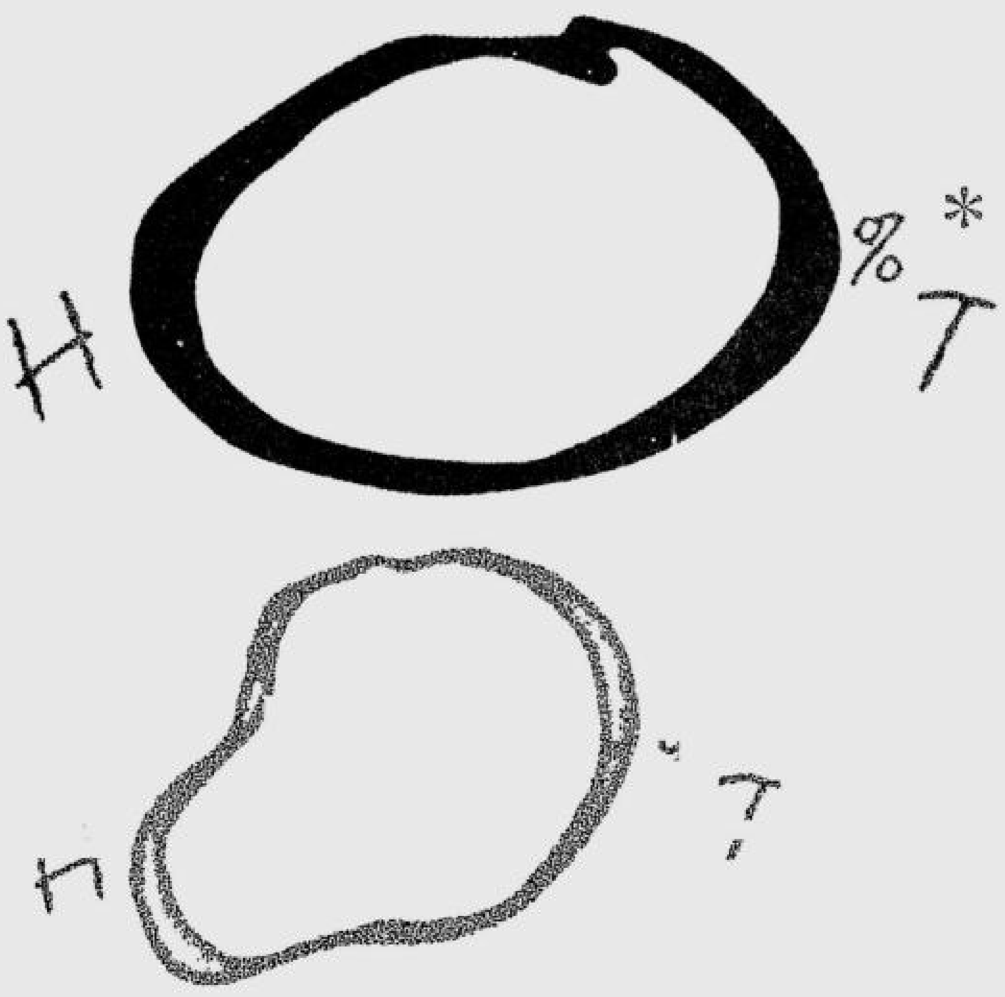

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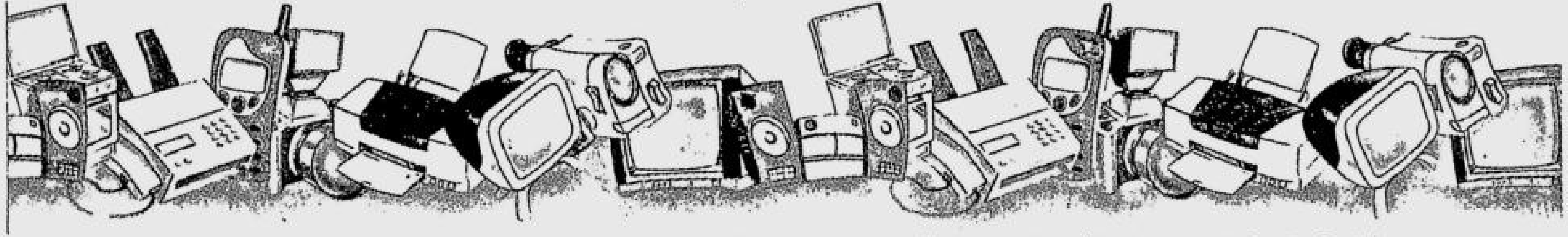

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OPINION

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Vol. 16 No. 105
ISSN 0116-2642

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The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati • P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati City, Philippines • Our new telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments; Editorial Fax 897-4793, 897-4794, Advertising 897-4807; Circulation 527-33-42, 527-33-48, 528-01-83, 528-01-86 and 528-02-13, Fax: 528-02-34.

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Altered priorities

EDITORIAL

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo drew a parallel between the presidency and the Philippine Army yesterday when she addressed the Army on its 104th anniversary. She said the Army was born at the Tejeros Convention in 1897 when the Philippine Revolution of 1896 was transformed from a mass uprising to a revolutionary government requiring a conventional and regular military force. It was also at Tejeros where the presidency was born with the declaration of Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo as president of the revolutionary forces. And so, her appearance at Fort Bonifacio (ironically named after Andres Bonifacio who was executed after losing out to Aguinaldo in the struggle for leadership of the revolution) was in celebration of the anniversaries of both the presidency and the Army.

History never ceases to play tricks with ironic twists. President Macapagal addressed the Army after completing the reorganization of the chain of command after the removal of Joseph Estrada from the presidency. As the commander in chief at the top of the chain of command, she reviewed the troops in the presence of a new defense secretary, retired Gen. Angelo Reyes; a new chief of staff, Gen. Diomedio Villanueva; and a new Army commander, Lt. Gen. Jaime de los Santos.

The changing of the guard puts in the hands of the Macapagal presidency a military establishment led by the defense secretary who, as chief of staff of Estrada, contributed to the collapse of his administration by withdrawing the support of the Armed Forces. Reyes has explained the transfer of loyalty to the next in line in presidential succession, then Vice President Macapagal, as a decision consistent with the Constitution. Reyes and the Armed Forces .leadership had decided that withdrawal was the only way to avert a chaotic transfer of power from a government whose capacity to govern had been crippled.

Reyes is a disciple of constitutionalism, even though the defection of the Armed Forces stretched the meaning of the term to the limit. As a consequence of the thin margin on which the transition from Estrada to Ms Macapagal took place, there are now legal questions over whether the latter's assumption of the presidency was constitutional. The Supreme Court by a unanimous 13-0 decision has upheld the legitimacy of the Macapagal accession, but the President is not yet certain that the fractiousness of the military that followed Edsa II would end with the completion of her new appointments in the high command.

With Reyes at the helm of the defense department, the President can probably be more confident of the Armed Forces' loyalty. In her speech on Army Day, she lost no time in consolidating support by announcing legislation and measures increasing the benefits for the soldiers, thereby reducing Estrada's residual influence in the military which he pampered during the Mindanao war.

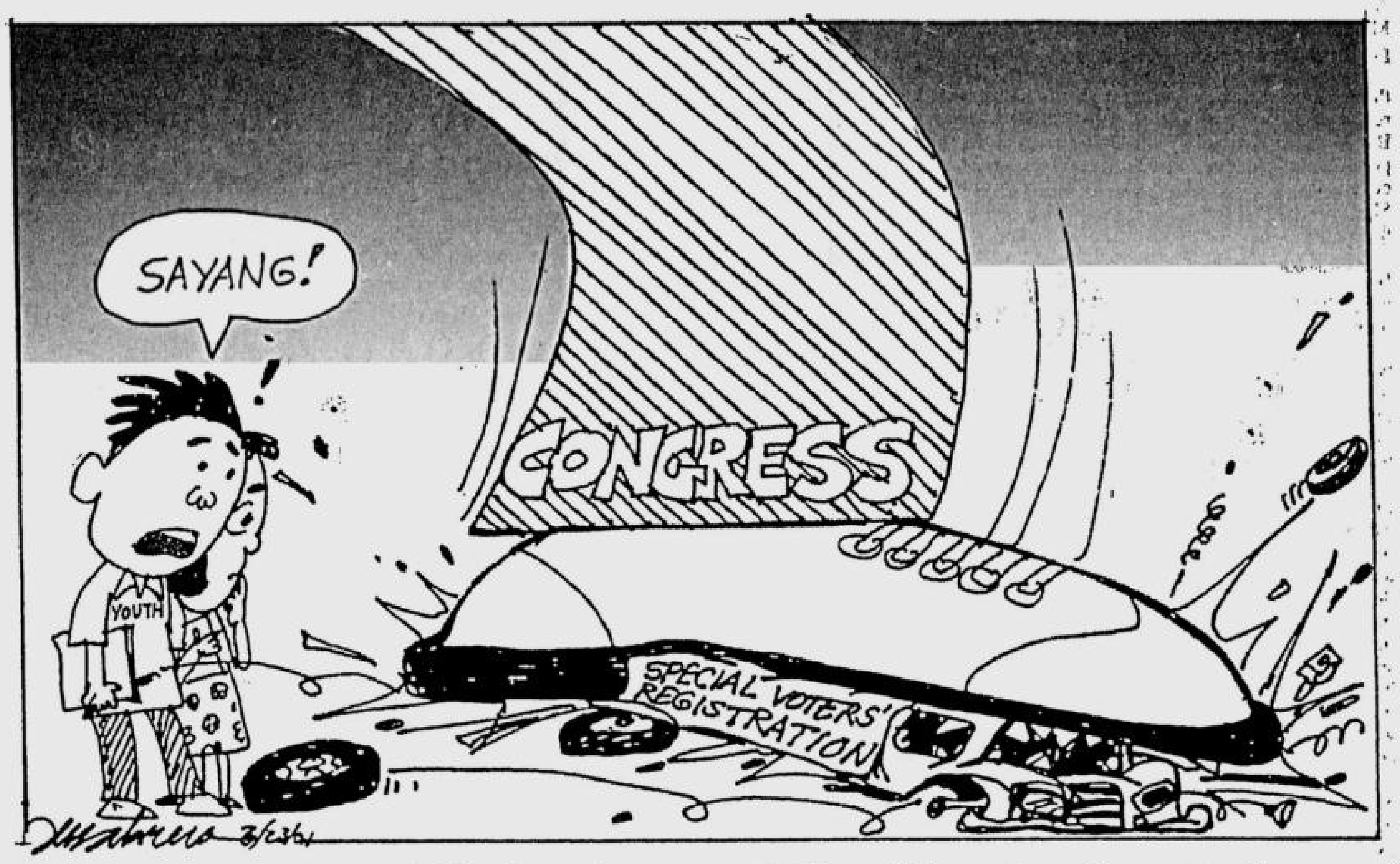
The Army that Ms Macapagal and the new military leadership reviewed yesterday was a far cry from the ill-armed Army commanded by Aguinaldo. It is a professional army, well-disciplined, and reasonably but not adequately equipped with modern weapons and armor. Its morale is high. It is well on the way to being a compact defense force under the P50-billion modernization program.

One can see from the parade, manifestations of the snappy, goose-stepping soldiers of authoritarian regimes and we hope that's not a sign of a tendency to Prussianize the military or to imitate the styles of Latin American armies molded in the fascist drills and traditions of past totalitarian regimes of Europe.

In her speech, the President spelled out four priorities for the Army: internal security, the fight against poverty, reconstruction of the peace process and guaranteeing internal security. The peace process reviving the dialogue with the Muslim separatist rebels can be a source of military unrest if the bases the Army had seized would be returned to the rebels. She has reversed the "all-out war" policy of Estrada against the Muslim rebels and if negotiations take hold, a new era of peace in Mindanao could accelerate its economic rehabilitation.

Ms Macapagal has also called upon the Army to help the police fight crime, particularly kidnapping, which seems to be on the rise. With these changed priorities, the Army has many things to keep itself busy.

While the Armed Forces undergo modernization, we can look forward to a military that is being reoriented from unnecessary combat duties to more civic action programs for a nation that is at last seeking peace with itself.



An unusual light show of fireflies in the park

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo won't lift a finger to help recover for the Filipino people the wealth stolen by the Marcoses. She said she would rely instead on the Presidential Commission on Good Government despite calls for her to do more.

This is very dangerous. We could lose all the ill-gotten loot of the Marcoses because some lawyers in the PCGG and in the Office of the Solicitor General who are prosecuting the ill-gotten wealth cases seem to be working for the Marcoses instead.

No less than a justice of the Sandiganbayan, who naturally does not want to be identified, is asking for help, saying that an unexplained wealth case and four other coco levy cases are being deliberately lost by a PCGG lawyer and a former assistant solicitor general. (If the President or the justice secretary want their identities, I will give them the names in confidence.)

The justice seems to be saying that the present PCGG cannot be trusted and should be replaced or reorganized. It is like a Trojan horse. The President has appointed Haydee Yorac, who is a *kumare* of Erap, to head the PCGG but she wants a little time before taking over. The justice said waiting for Yorac may be too late for the cases.

Ms President, you have been properly informed. If your administration loses the cases, there is nobody to blame but yourself.

* * *

Let's shift to the good news for a change.

Have you seen fireflies in the urban jungle that is Metro Manila lately? I don't mean the firefly lights bought from stores to decorate Christmas trees and homes during the Christmas season. I mean real fireflies.

When I happened to mention to the Manila Standard's Jullie Yap-Daza about a year ago that I saw fireflies flitting in our backyard and in the vacant lot beside it, she was skeptical. "There are no more fireflies," she said sadly.

I have news for her and other skeptics like her. Fireflies are alive, well and bountiful in the park of the village where I live. If they want to see real fireflies in action, plenty of them, they can go to the Centennial Forest Park in Mira-Nila Homes in Quezon City. You can see them lighting up a tree like it was a Christmas tree, besides flitting among other trees. I discovered them more than a week ago. Every night since then, I went to the park to see if they're still there. They are. Even as I write this, they are there blinking their lights away. If you want to see them, better come soon before they die or move away.

I discovered them quite by accident. Early one evening last week as I walked around the park for my daily exercise, I decided to walk down the footpath into the park. It was dark but I was used to walking in the park, day or night. At a bend of the path, at the foot of the bridge, I saw them. They were flitting around an eight-foot tree, blinking their lights.

My attention was attracted to the branches of a small acacia tree beside it. The branches were silhouetted against the still light sky. And among the branches were flickers of light. At first, I thought they were the stars twinkling in the sky. The stars were twinkling there, indeed, but those twinkling lights moving about were fireflies. There were a scattered few others flying among other trees, even at the top of the bamboo grove, and down among the grass.

I watched the blinking lights for a long while, dumbfounded, the gurgling of the stream flowing over the rocks providing accompaniment to the light show. Then I rushed home and called my daughters to come see the fireflies.

They came running with flashlights, and we went back into the park. We all stood there in awe, watching the dance of light of the fireflies, speaking quietly as if noise may drive them away. They were concentrated around that eight-foot tree. It really looked like a Christmas tree.

I do not know what attracted them to that tree and the acacia tree beside it. I thought maybe they were being attracted by the blossoms. But when I went back the next morning to look, there were no blossoms. The smaller tree is a *guyabano*.

The next night, there were more fireflies around the same tree. And, we noticed for the first time, they were blinking at the same time. They were really like blinking electric Christmas firefly lights.

Luckily, my teenaged granddaughter was having choir practice in the house of a classmate in an adjoining village and my daughters fetched her from there. She was going to be fetched from our house by her father and her 5-year-old sister. We took her to the park to see the fireflies even before we could take dinner. She was so excited. She had never seen fireflies before.

When her father and sister arrived, we told them bout the fireflies. "There's no such thing as fireflies," said the smart-alecky girl.

"We'll show you that there are," I said.

So we went to the park again and she was awed by the fireflies. "It is really like a Christmas tree," she said.

The insects had transferred to a bigger mango tree, although there were still a few around the *guyabano* and acacia trees. In the succeeding nights, the fireflies diminished. "Maybe some of them died already," my elder daughter volunteered. "They have short lives. Maybe they had just hatched when they were plentiful."

One night, they were gone. But as I walked farther on, I saw them. They were around a much bigger *kakawati* tree farther into the park. And they were still blinking at the same time. I fetched my younger daughter from the house and we went back with our black Labrador Retriever and watched the show in its new stage. Then we went to the opposite side of the stream to see if the lights were visible from there. They were.

* * *

We visited them every night. Our neighbors were probably wondering what those people with flashlights were doing in the park every night. I think nobody else in the village has seen those fireflies except us. Unfortunately, they cannot be seen from the street as trees and the clubhouse block them from view. You have to go inside the park to see them.

Tonight, as I am writing this, they're still there, although a little less now. Tomorrow night, I'm sure they'll still be there and I hope they'll still be there in succeeding nights. Catch the show before it closes.

But not a drop to drink

WINDMILLS

Jerry Barican

THE GOVERNMENT is considering a request—a demand really—by the Maynilad Water Services for an automatic mechanism to reimburse it for over P2 billion in losses it has incurred because of the effect of devaluation on foreign exchange loans it inherited from the defunct Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System.

There are many good reasons, both legal and moral, why it should not agree in any form other than that already provided for by the contract. To begin with, these debts were known at the time of Maynilad's bid, and any anticipation of possible foreign exchange fluctuations was part of its analysis when it made its bid for the concession. While Maynilad may therefore claim that a devaluation was not foreseen by them, it was not unforeseeable. Consequently, the company is liable under the terms of the contract they themselves signed. If there is no provision to cover these losses automatically, they have only themselves to blame.

Any attempt to amend the terms of the contract to favor Maynilad would be obviously grossly disadvantageous to the government and, we might add, criminal under the anti-graft law. Wise to this danger, and to the potential public outcry, the government has rejected the renegotiation mechanism for a price adjustment and is looking for "some other way."

The question is, what other way? The Lopez group of companies made P14 billion last year, all involving some contract (water, highways, etc.) or grant (radio, TV, telecoms) by government. It now wants the government to place the costs of its failure to anticipate the exchange rate in one of its ventures not on its shoulders that can carry the weight but on the broad backs of the poor consumers. If the government agrees, it will be a betrayal of the public trust, and will be portrayed as proof that the government is not just pro-rich but anti-poor.

The great strength of capitalism is that, properly, it gives the capitalist both the rewards and risks of entrepreneurship. A leftist ideologue's ideal is for all the capitalist's profits to be taxed or paid to workers, while all the losses are borne by him or her alone. Maynilad's idea is the opposite: a contract with government must always be profitable and any risk of loss should be passed on to the consumers.

Really? If the foreign exchange rate had gone down instead of up, and the peso strengthened, would they have returned the exchange profit to us or would they have booked it as an extraordinary profit on the ground that there is no contractual provision to the contrary? Obviously the latter. Contrariwise, a true capitalist argues that he will bear both the profits and the losses of his venture, a mechanism that ultimately strengthens the economy by weeding out inefficiency.

There is another, and ethical, reason why there should be no automatic increase from P6.58 to P17 per cubic meter. This would constitute an unconscionable transfer of resources from the many who are poor to the few who are rich. There is a huge difference between energy, which is imported in the form of petroleum, and water, which falls gently upon the place beneath. To impose an automatic currency adjustment on the former makes sense; to do so on water far less so.

As some administration officials have noted, to allow such a mechanism would also be unfair on the other bidders for the Maynilad concession. It could even lead to lawsuits. Unlike Maynilad, other bidders may have imputed these costs in estimating their bid and may have lost because of it. To allow Maynilad to change the rules now would be to impair the legitimacy of the entire bidding process held some years back.

As to apparent intimations that Maynilad may be compelled to withdraw, there is a $200-million performance bond to answer for it, and also, under the law, the same remedies for the government that are open to any aggrieved party under the Civil Code, including a suit for specific performance, and even damages. The government, in brief, is not helpless in the face of these difficulties.

The fairer solution would be to abide by the contract terms negotiated between Maynilad and the government to begin with. This involves a petition filed with the MWSS Regulatory Office for an appropriate adjustment due to exchange rate fluctuations. The adjustment is not automatic. The letter of the Freedom From Debt Coalition to this newspaper is reasonable and balanced:

"Maynilad's cash flow problem is serious and needs to be addressed. But the MWSS, primarily through the Regulatory Office, must carefully investigate how this problem came about. In doing so, the concessionaires together with the MWSS will prudently avoid passing on to consumers the full burden of resolving problems that may have resulted partially from the concessionaire's own shortcomings, e.g. mismanagement, failure to meet performance targets, etc." Well said.

Rather than looking for additional or other mechanisms, the contract itself should be followed. And the government should, in view of the crisis, expedite the reception of evidence, and the decision. The attitude should be one of impartiality, neither giving Maynilad necessarily everything it asks for nor denying all or even any of its claims, when the evidence might justify granting it. We have a contract. Let both parties live up to it in good faith.

When Ms Macapagal starts governing

COMMENTARY

Leandro V. Coronel

WHEN will President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo stop politicking and start getting down to business? An array of ills is crying out for solutions, and Ms Macapagal can't afford to waste time pandering to power blocs, specifically the military.

Like an anxious suitor, Ms Macapagal has been throwing crisp salutes and sugary prose in the direction of the men who pack guns and ride tanks. But she must have a reason for giving undue importance to the military. The easy conclusion is she's consolidating her position as accidental President. She knows how tenuous her hold on office was in the early days of her inherited presidency

So, okay, she may be justified in securing her flanks where she feels vulnerable. And it probably gives her the jitters that there's dissension and intrigue among the very men in whose ears she's been mouthing sweet nothings, according to reports. But whether esprit de corps flows like sweet honey in the military now or not, Ms Macapagal can't forever spend time gracing military anniversaries and other social functions. She has to look after the interest of all citizens of the nation.

There was a big to-do about Ms Macapagal being an economist. And yet, she has not enunciated a comprehensive economic game plan to set up the nation for takeoff. Her Cabinet secretaries have not announced any concrete plans how their respective departments will play a role in getting the economy moving again, how social services will make living more decent and humane for us Filipinos, how to secure a good education for our youth and better health for our elderly, how the people will feed themselves without importing their food, and how we can again walk our streets without fear of becoming a crime statistic the next day.

So far, it's been politics, politics, politics. It's been Estrada, Estrada, Estrada and 13-0, 13-0, 13-0. Isn't there life after Estrada and Edsa II? Can we expect a better life and a better living environment now that Ms Macapagal is ensconced in Malacañang? Because if there's nothing more to life than seeing Ms Macapagal with generals, the exploitation of the names of Sharon and Vilma, the vacuous statements of police officials who seem not to have an idea what policing is all about, then what was the point of all that mass of sweating and swearing humanity at the junction of Edsa and Ortigas in mid-January?

Let's be understanding and give Ms Macapagal the benefit of the doubt. She must know what she's doing, exchanging salutes and smiles with men in uniform. But she should get that done fast and then be CEO of this near-bankrupt enterprise called the Philippines.

It's an understatement to say that there's much to do. There's bad government and a worse bureaucracy. Bad community living conditions and worse criminality in the streets. Bad business practices and worse investment prospects. Bad unemployment situation and worse job conditions.

When she gets down to the nitty-gritty, Ms Macapagal will find a million and one problems to solve. Here are a few examples.

Small and medium brokers are up in arms over an order of Winston Garcia, the new president of the Government Service and Insurance System, to funnel government reinsurance to the National Reinsurance Corp., a semi-government entity. Reinsurance is a method that distributes the risk of the original insurer, in this case of a government project, by giving all or part of the insurance policy to another insurer and reducing the amount of possible loss. In other words, reinsurance is an "insurance of insurance."

Small-scale brokers fear big-time brokerages will corner the reinsurance business and kill the smaller brokers who otherwise can provide the same expertise and rates the biggies can. Is this what the Macapagal administration means by a level playing field?

President Macapagal should send out the word that graft in government must end. In both the GSIS and the Social Security System, criminal activity flourishes. Example: A family friend, Linda Amon of West Triangle, Quezon City, found out to her horror that she "owes" the SSS thousands of pesos because of a loan fraudulently taken out under her name. Now the loan has accumulated interest because no payments were being made. How can the supposed borrower, Linda, make payments when she didn't take out the loan in the first place and didn't even know about its existence? And why should she now be made to pay? No doubt this kind of scam takes place regularly at the SSS and GSIS.

Crime in our neighborhoods deserves the attention of, if not the President herself, city and municipal officials and the Department of the Interior and Local Government. An example from close to home recently: A drug-crazed youth barged, in the middle of the night, into the home of my sister Nini and her husband Elpie Nuqui in Barangay Sto. Rosario, Macabebe, Pampanga. The mind-addled youngster trashed the Nuquis' dirty kitchen and bathroom, dismantling with his bare hands their washing machine while in a paranoid state, as evidenced by his screaming. After a long, violent struggle, the youth was subdued.

But here's a fact that makes ordinary citizens scared about drugs and criminality in their midst: no barangay official or *tanod* responded to the Nuquis' calls for help. It took policemen and neighbors to come to the rescue. The barangay captain in Sto. Rosario is a certain Bienvenido Lagman, a stark contrast to his respected counterpart, Enrique Arcega, in neighboring Barangay San Roque.

Frustration is all over the land. Ordinary citizens dispense with protocol and decorum and publicly gripe about their garbage and unemployment problems in front of the President. If Ms Macapagal holds more of these so-called summits on the people's concerns, she will find out how bad the people's living conditions are. She claims to want to do many things to improve our lives. But she can only accomplish this by forgetting about playing suitor to her political constituencies and attending instead to the needs of ordinary, but real, people.

Leandro V. Coronel, a former spokesperson of the World Bank, now lives and writes here.

Beyond the movie and the controversy

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

TWICE (now former) MTRCB Chair Nicanor Tiongson was asked what the President had told him in a meeting, and twice Tiongson replied that he didn't even know that a meeting had been scheduled.

Since his appointment to head the country's Movie and Television Review and Classification Board, Tiongson had tried earnestly and frequently to seek an audience with President Macapagal. But each time he was told the President was "too busy" to see him. The news that he had supposedly stood up the President twice was thus quite a shock. And as it happens, the only time he got to see the President personally was the time she told him she was going to fire him.

Tiongson's abrupt resignation has ramifications far beyond the question of legality, or even of the definition of pornography. It is also about the process of decision-making in this new administration, about "who calls the shots" and to whom the President listens. It is at heart about whether the Philippines is a real and vibrant democracy where the people's voices are heard, or an elite-dominated quasi-democracy where only the voices of a few influentials are heeded.

What did we fight for at Edsa and all over the country last January? Was it only to rid ourselves of a corrupt leader? Was it to install a new morality and accountability in governance? Or was it merely to restore the power of the old elites?

* * *

ASIDE from Tiongson, another central figure in the controversy is Jose Javier Reyes, who wrote and directed "Live Show." This is the film that led to Tiongson's resignation and to this crisis not just for the President, but for so many other "believers," not necessarily in Ms Macapagal, but in the whole dream of renewal and change by an exercise of popular will.

In an impassioned e-mail to friends and allies, Joey lets go with more than a mouthful on this wrinkle in the post-People Power honeymoon period. "Nic Tiongson gave up a teaching stint at Berkeley because we implored him to help us in the movie industry. And this is what he got in return. He sacrificed so much because he wanted to help the directors give a sense of meaning...and newfound energy to a dying Philippine cinema. And this is what he got in return," Joey writes. "I do not know what is more painful, being branded as a pornographer...or watching an honest, intelligent man sacrifice his time to help an industry he believes worth saving...then be dismissed so nonchalantly."

Joey recalls "the happiest day in my life," when "Toro" (or "Live Show") had its gala premiere (actually, its world premiere) at the 50th Berlin International Filmfest. "In front of an audience comprised of world cineastes, critics and festival organizers, I presented a Filipino film. No one walked out of the movie house throughout the screening. My friend, Don Escudero was with me...together with actresses Anna Capri and Klaudia Koronel, actor/director Khryss Adalia, production designer Jake de Asis...as well as producer Lily Monteverde. During the Question and Answer session right after the screening, I was awed by the sincere interest and appreciation of the film. Anna and I were interviewed by an international television syndicated group...as well as a German daily about the film. I also received so many other invitations for other film festivals."

* * *

"IT was the happiest day in my life because for the very first time, I felt like a filmmaker. A Filipino filmmaker," Joey adds. "The ecstasy of the moment was knowing that in front of one of the most prestigious film festivals in the world, a Filipino work...together with two other materials (Mel Chionglo's and Lav Diaz's)...were brought to the consciousness of an international community. The moment was precious because I realized that I had FINALLY made my contribution to the cause and effort of so many filmmakers who came before me—Lino Brocka, Ishmael Bernal, Peque Gallaga—and my peers like Carlitos Siguion-Reyna, Mel Chionglo, Joel Lamangan, Gil Portes and Tikoy Aguiluz...to bring Filipino cinema to the world.

"And each time 'Toro' was invited to a filmfest...the triumph was not mine alone...but for every Filipino filmmaker who dreams of opening his precious work to a much broader and wider public. Every Filipino film that crosses the seas, regardless of who is the director, is a triumph for the Filipino filmmaker.

"The pain comes from realizing that 'Toro' was shown all over the world before it reached the audience it was meant to be shown. The bigger pain is that the world embraced the film...and my country has branded it as smut."

* * *

SEEKING to transcend the immediate impact of these developments, Joey however notes that "I cannot afford to be merely angry at the Church...or to give up hope on GMA.

"I think we have to transcend the details and analyze the issues, dissect the process. I am trying my best to UNDERSTAND what happened...and set aside my own personal anguish to see a much larger picture.

"Guys, there IS a problem. The timing of this controversy is all wrong...and could explode into a major mess since we are right smack in a campaign period where the selection of the senators is all too vital...Gloria should receive better advice."

If the filmmaker so unfairly and unjustly slandered in this whole affair can still seek to find the right perspective, shouldn't those on the "other" side try an "examination of conscience" at least? Shouldn't the President for a start try to examine just how the process of coming to a decision in this case went along?

* * *

For comments, etc. e-mail me at rjdavid@inquirer.com.ph

The capture of Aguinaldo

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

IN THE NATIONAL Library are the diaries of Dr. Santiago Barcelona and Col. Simeon Villa which give the details of Emilio Aguinaldo's trek from Malolos, Bulacan, to Palanan, Isabela, from November 1899 to March 1901. These diaries make fascinating reading today. Tracing the route Aguinaldo and his men took on a map makes you marvel how they managed without roads or modern vehicles. More impressive even is that they managed to elude the enemy for over a year.

Naturally, the Barcelona and Villa diaries ended with the capture of the president on March 23, 1901. The last entry in Villa's diary is dated March 22, 1901. It reads simply, "Today is Aguinaldo's birthday and many people came to greet him." Nursing a hangover from the festivities nobody knew that by the next day Aguinaldo would be a prisoner.

Last Wednesday's column was based on Frederick Funston's account of Aguinaldo's capture. To validate this, I went over two other accounts: one by Lazaro Segovia, who pretended to be the leader of the group taking the enemy prisoners to Palanan, and of course Aguinaldo's own story. Segovia's version saw print in 1902 and Aguinaldo's in August 1901. Both Segovia and Aguinaldo agree on many points and my biggest disappointment is that the story of the fat man sitting on Aguinaldo is not here.

Segovia entered Aguinaldo's house and was met by Dr. Barcelona who introduced them to Col. Simeon Villa and the other officers inside. Aguinaldo was changing (Segovia assumes that Aguinaldo was in his "drawers" and that he "did not seem it convenient to receive us dressed so thinly.") Five minutes later, after a round of cigarettes and sugar water had been passed, Aguinaldo appeared in a khaki uniform. Segovia and Hilario salute and the president shakes their hands. Aguinaldo, the thoughtful host, noted Segovia's bandaged foot and assured him that Dr. Barcelona could fix it.

The house was simple, with two or three benches along the wall, a far cry from the presidential residence at Malolos.

Half an hour after their arrival and after checking all escape routes, Segovia excused himself to order his men to rest. Then outside with Hilario, Segovia waved his hat and shouted: "Now Macabebes!" And the shooting began.

Some of the officers jumped out the back window, while Aguinaldo and Barcelona stood by the window stunned. Villa jumped and was shot in the wrist. A second shot pierced his back, the bullet exiting the other side just above the heart. Through all this commotion, Segovia and Hilario had their eyes trained on Aguinaldo and Barcelona.

Then Segovia announced: "You are our prisoners. We are not insurgents. We are Americans. We have taken you by surprise. Surrender unconditionally without offering the slightest resistance. If not, you will be killed."

Barcelona allegedly took out a white handkerchief from his pocket and said, "Yes, sir, we surrender. This is the flag of peace."

Funston, however, says it was Gregorio Cadhit, not Segovia who gave the famous order, "Now is the time Macabebes! Give it to them!" The problem is that Funston was not in the house during the shootout. So we have Aguinaldo's version which reads in part:

"After talking with Tal Placido and Segovia for 15 or 20 minutes, I gave orders that the newly arrived men be allowed to fall out and go to rest in the quarters which had been prepared for them. Captain Segovia immediately left the house and returned to the place where his men were drawn up waiting for him. As he came up to them Segovia shouted in a loud voice an order which we did not hear distinctly and did not understand. Instantly his men began to shoot at the soldiers of my guard, taking them completely by surprise.

"When the firing began, not suspecting any plan against myself, I thought it was a salute with blank cartridges, and having this in mind, I ran to the window and cried out several times, 'Cease firing!' But seeing that the firing continued, and that the bullets...were directed against me...I, for the first time, realized that the newcomers were enemies. I hurriedly left the window and ran into another room in the hope of finding some means of escape but saw at once that the house was already surrounded. Then I seized a revolver, intending to defend myself, but Dr. Barcelona threw both arms around me crying out, 'Don't sacrifice yourself. The country needs your life.' Thus I was prevented from carrying out my intention. Colonel Villa ran from the house in an attempt to break through the lines of the enemy and rally our men, but he was shot three times and finally taken prisoner.

"When the firing commenced, Tal Placido threw himself down on the floor to avoid the bullets, but now he got up and told us that we were prisoners of the Americans...Just at this time several of Tal Placido's men came into the house shouting, 'Hurrah for the Macabebes!' and surrounded Barcelona and myself..."

One forgets and remembers selectively. Reading these accounts shows how memory creates its own fictions, giving historians a hard time. There is one version of history for every temperament or persuasion which explains why history can often be confused and confusing.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Erap's 'masa' following is non-transferable

OUTLOOK

Rigoberto Tiglao

IF Joseph Estrada's senatorial candidates think that they've got a chance of winning since the deposed president can call on his "masses" to vote for them, they're dead wrong.

Estrada's entire political career shows that his appeal to the masses is exclusively his own, and that it's not even powerful enough to help his candidates. It's just not transferable. Other than his son, San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada, there's been no senator, congressman, or even municipal council member who won an electoral post because the deposed president was able to rub his mass appeal on him.

Senatorial candidate Edgardo Angara should know. No matter how much the former top corporate lawyer held on to the ex-actor's jacket in the 1998 elections, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo just buried him. No one even recalls the senators Estrada supported in that election.

But surely Estrada's masses would vote for his wife Loi? The couple is in for a disappointment. Quick surveys by the two camps show that Loi Estrada hasn't been able in the past several weeks to get out of the 17th slot, despite her husband's strong message that she is his surrogate.

Estrada's "mass" following could even be a liability for his candidates. His fanatics would be thinking: "If Angara, Juan Ponce Enrile, Miriam Defensor-Santiago were such brilliant lawyers and politicians, why couldn't they have saved our idol?" Maybe they really betrayed him, Estrada's fanatics would even suspect. Why couldn't Loi keep her husbands' mistresses—the real corruptors—in check? Panfilo Lacson? A wimp who even appeared on TV to junk his boss.

But even with the problems Estrada's candidates have, it's certainly not easy sailing for the People Power Coalition. Political upheavals are often a blur of events, with only the villain, the leader and the cause remembered. In Edsa I, it was Marcos, the anti-dictatorship movement, and of course Corazon Aquino. Since she was the undisputed heroine of Edsa I, it was easy for Aquino to be anointing her candidates.

Edsa II is quite different. It was a swift upheaval—done within four days—in a period of political struggle within a constitutional framework. Estrada's constitutional successor, Ms Macapagal, couldn't assert undisputed leadership of the movement as such a stance would have been perceived as solely a self-serving one. As a result there is no single leader of Edsa II, and therefore no one to really anoint its candidates.

The brass-tacks problem has become name recall. We were told that quick surveys by the PPC among the poor show that at most, they could only name six people whom they'd want to vote for the Senate in May. But two aren't even candidates: Education Secretary Raul Roco and Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste.

Enigmatic campaign slogan

Sen. Gregorio Honasan's huge and very conspicuous billboard along Edsa carries his campaign slogan: "Para sa Kapayapaan." "Honasan para sa Kapayapaan (Honasan for Peace)" certainly rhymes, but we find it one of the most enigmatic campaign slogans. Honasan certainly couldn't be referring to the coup attempts he led against Cory Aquino, where at least a hundred soldiers and civilians died. He couldn't be referring to his support of then President Joseph Estrada's all-out war against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the New People's Army. Our only explanation: This candidate seems to be subliminally telling us that if he isn't reelected, there'll be violent coups again.

And not coincidentally, Honasan's mentor Enrile was reported yesterday in the pro-Estrada The Daily Tribune to have warned that "poll fraud" (should we read that as Honasan and Enrile's defeat in the elections?) would prompt a coup by military rebels.

* * *

Former Speaker Jose de Venecia believes he is on a comeback trail. He has managed to convince party mate Benjamin Lim not to make a bid for reelection in De Venecia's Pangasinan congressional district. Lim instead is running for Dagupan City mayor. The mayoralty will be vacated by third-termer Al Fernandez, whose son will be Lim's running mate. The other contenders are perennial losers, without any political resources at all.

Everybody happy. No need for spending millions of pesos in what could have been a hotly contested election in former President Fidel Ramos' home province. But is this the kind of representative democracy our Constitution envisioned?

* * *

By chance, I asked one of our staff at Inq7.net to check if there were any mails for me at this paper's offices. There were a lot, some sent in December, and there were even messages faxed to the INQUIRER's machines. I apologize to those who may have thought I didn't even bother to reply to them. I very seldom drop by the INQUIRER's offices, and, like nearly all of this paper's regular columnists, I just e-mail my column to the paper's Opinion page editor, Jorge Aruta. If you have to send me hard copies, please send these to Inq7 Interactive, where I am editor in chief. The address is 9th Floor, Rufino Building, Herrera corner Ayala Avenue, Makati City. The best way for communicating though is to send me an e-mail at the address below.

* * *

Comments: rtiglao@inq7.net

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO...?

Trafficking case vs Chinese

ABOUT 421 kilos of methamphetamine hydrochloride or *shabu* were seized from four Chinese in a coastal village in Infanta, Pangasinan, on Nov. 5, 1999. The illegal drugs, worth P840 million, were sealed in plastic bags and contained in 13 drums. Ng Siu Ming from Hong Kong, Yum Wai Hung, Fang Kuo Sheng and Tse Lan Seng from China, were arrested by Pangasinan police in a beach resort in Barangay Macalang, Dasol.

Rolly Boniel reported to the barangay chair, Elpidio Navarosa, that some men had unloaded plastic barrels from a speedboat on the shores of Barangay Bayambang. Navarosa called the police, who were conducting surveillance and monitoring operations against smugglers in the area. The policemen proceeded to a resort in Barangay Macalang where they found the four Chinese in possession of four bags of shabu and several communication gadgets.

The policemen also went to Barangay Bayambang to check out the barrels and found that they contained *shabu*. Boniel positively identified the four Chinese as those who unloaded the barrels from the speedboat.

On Nov. 11, the four were charged with drug trafficking before the Burgos Regional Trial Court in Pangasinan. The case was assigned to Executive Judge Angel Hernando Jr. of Branch 70.

State prosecutors Archimedes Manabat and Aida Macapagal sent a letter to Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. on Nov. 19 requesting that the case be transferred to any Metro Manila RTC, preferably in Quezon City. The prosecutors said that considering the gravity of the offense and the allegation that some government officials were involved, the trial should be held in Metro Manila. In the meantime, the accused pleaded not guilty when arraigned on Jan. 19, 2000.

On Feb. 2, the Supreme Court ordered the case transferred to Quezon City. The case was raffled off to Judge Ma. Teresa Yadao of Branch 81.

Case status: Trial is going on. The alleged four Chinese suspects are detained at the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force detention center in Camp Crame, Quezon City.

Armin P. Adina, PDI Research Department

A call for Japan's premier to resign

LETTERS

WE, the *lolas* of Lila-Pilipina, join the call for Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori to step down from office immediately. His administration remains deaf and apathetic to the pleas of the Filipino comfort women for redress from the atrocities committed by the Japanese Imperial Army during World War II.

We too feel neglected and unheard by the Japanese government even if the Japanese people themselves are in solidarity with our cause.

Last Dec. 6, the Tokyo Court of Appeals upheld the Tokyo District Court's decision "that individuals cannot be subjects of rights under international law and that the *lolas'* case is a state-to-state matter." We filed the case in 1993 with 46 comfort women as plaintiffs. From that group, 10 are now dead. Lola Catalina Lorenzo, 86, of Dagat-dagatan, Navotas, died of illnesses only last February.

The Japanese government should face its legal responsibilities. And no government should remain if it cannot dispense justice to those who have been wronged.—**RECHILDA A. EXTREMADURA, secretary of the board, Lila-Pilipina Inc., 35 Scout Delgado St., Roxas District, Quezon City**

Tan case deserves another look

WE, the Board of Trustees of the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation, are aghast and distressed by the news that Ambassador Bienvenido A. Tan Jr. has been judged guilty by the Sandiganbayan in a case involving the collection of taxes from San Miguel Corp. (SMC).

Throughout his career as a public servant, Tan has been known as a fair and upright man, and both the business community and civil society have been witness to his principled stand on the just application of the law for everyone. It is, therefore, most distressing to us that he may now have become the unwitting victim of an erroneous interpretation of the law.

As the Sandiganbayan noted in its decision, there was no personal interest or financial benefit gained by Tan when he exercised his legal authority to collect the correct tax from SMC as the BIR commissioner. Furthermore, the Ombudsman has determined that there was no connivance or conspiracy between Tan and his subordinates, who had collectively recommended acceptance of the SMC compromise offer after their study of the disputed tax assessment.

We trust that the court will give due course to Tan's motion for reconsideration to ensure that the interest of justice for both the government and the Filipino taxpayer is properly served by public officials now and in the future. Having known him through both his public and private actions, we remain convinced that he acted on the basis of the truth and in the interest of what was fair to all concerned.

The Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation sees the need for continuing vigilance in preserving our democracy and in promoting good governance, as our recent People Power II has so clearly underscored and as the Magsaysay Award has honored for the past 43 years. But good governance must be anchored on an assertion of the truth, the real and complete truth.

In this connection, we strongly urge the court to take a second look at this case, so that an innocent man may not be unjustly punished for simply performing his sworn duty to collect the correct taxes.—**VITALIANO N. NANAGAS II, JAIME AUGUSTO ZOBEL DE AYALA II, DR. GELIA T. CASTILLO, BISHOP ANTONIO J. LEDESMA, S.J., D.D., DR. DOREEN G. FERNANDEZ, PROF. RANDY DAVID, JAIME RAMON "JIM" PAREDES, CARMENCITA T. ABELLA, Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation, Ramon Magsaysay Center, 1680 Roxas Boulevard, Manila**

* * *

WE, the residents of Malate are deeply saddened by the decision of the Sandiganbayan convicting former Ambassador and BIR Commissioner Bienvenido Tan Jr. regarding the case of San Miguel Corp.

We certainly believe that the Sandiganbayan made a grave mistake in handing a guilty verdict on Tan. He is known for his integrity, morality and especially for his generosity to the marginalized poor.

We therefore ask and pray that the Sandiganbayan will reverse its decision.—**WITH 431 SIGNATORIES**

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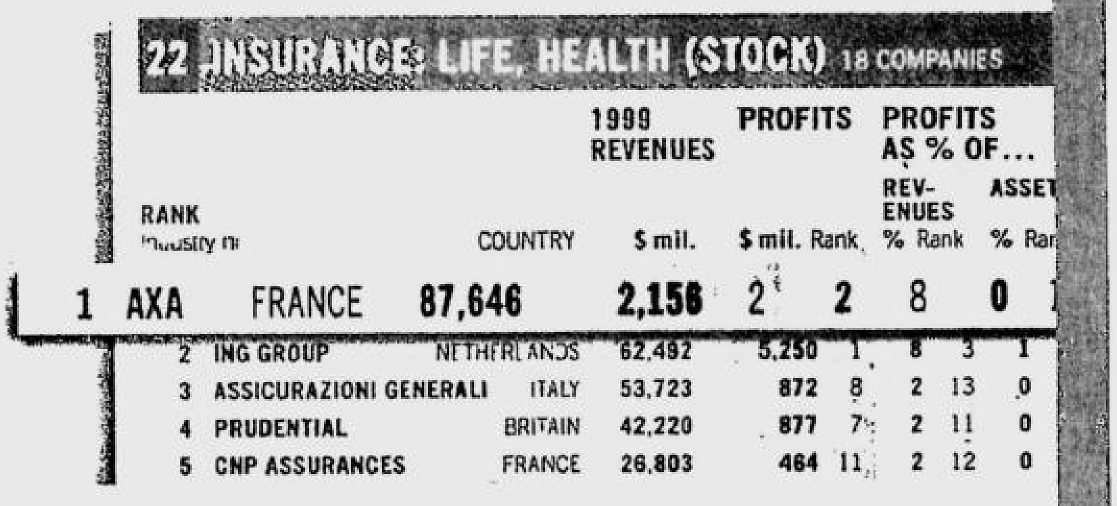

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3	ASSICURAZIONI GENERALI	ITALY	53,723	872	8	2	13	0
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5	CNP ASSURANCES	FRANCE	26,803	464	11	2	12	0

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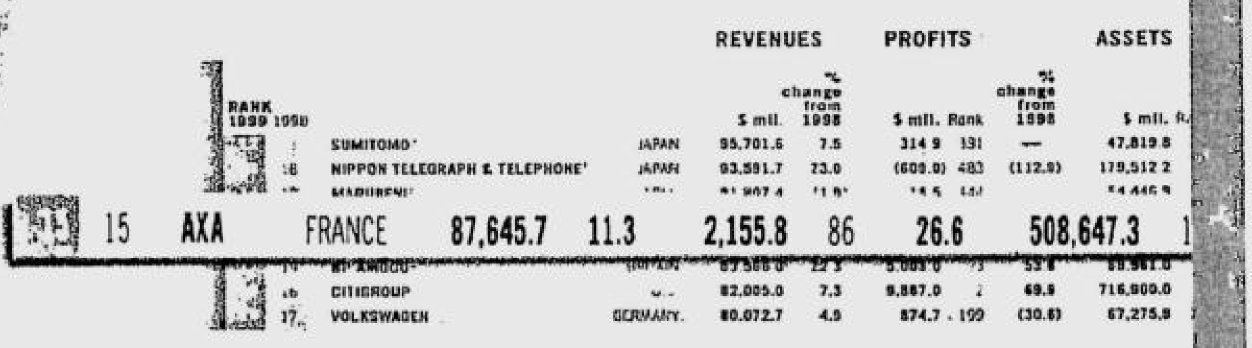

RANK 1999			REVENUES $ mil.	% change from 1998	PROFITS $ mil.	Rank	% change from 1998	ASSETS $ mil.
[illegible]	SUMITOMO	JAPAN	95,701.6	7.5	314.9	131	—	47,819.8
[illegible]	NIPPON TELEGRAPH & TELEPHONE	JAPAN	93,591.7	23.0	(600.0)	483	(112.8)	179,512.2
[illegible]	MARUBENI	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]		[illegible]
15	AXA	FRANCE	87,645.7	11.3	2,155.8	86	26.6	508,647.3
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	CITIGROUP	[illegible]	82,005.0	7.3	9,867.0	[illegible]	69.9	716,900.0
17	VOLKSWAGEN	GERMANY	80,072.7	4.9	874.7	199	(30.6)	67,275.9

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THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

Backbone

(*Conclusion*)

NICANOR Tiongson finally met with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo last Tuesday night.

It was not an auspicious meeting. Before they met, Ms Macapagal had been asked in an ambush interview if she planned to axe her MTRCB head, who had barely warmed his seat in his job. She said yes. And it was obvious when they talked that she had already made up her mind. Which raised in Tiongson's mind questions about whether his inability to get in touch with her until that point was the result of a cordon sanitaire that had been thrown around her by Jaime Cardinal Sin's legions in Malacañang or by a political chastity belt she had decided to wear on her own. She has been known to avoid controversy like the plague. She did not become President by taking risks, she did not become President by bucking the odds.

The President told Tiongson she had decided on a compromise. First, she would recall the showing of "Live Show." Even as they spoke, she said, her chief legal adviser was already drafting a memorandum revoking the permit of the movie. Second, she wanted the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board to apply stricter standards in classifying movies to avoid incidents like this. Movies that should be kept out of public view should be X-ed from the start. And third, she wanted the MTRCB Implementing Rules and Regulations changed to give the chair the power to recall a movie at any time. It used to be so before Armida Siguion-Reyna became chair. Etta Mendez and Manoling Morato, the Cro-Magnons of the past, were free to revoke the permits of movies, and did so with impunity, or spite. It was Siguion-Reyna who scrapped the practice, etching in tablet the current rules and regulations that forbade the MTRCB chair from overruling his board.

The President might as well have told Tiongson to go screw himself. Preferably, like the characters of "Live Show," in public.

It wasn't a compromise, it was a surrender. Any self-respecting movie buff, or public official, would have found it a betrayal of principle. Tiongson did. In resigning, he took Ms Macapagal's three proposals to task.

How anybody in his—or her—right mind could possibly deem "Live Show" to be unfit for public viewing, he didn't know. If anybody got titillated by the movie, Tiongson said, he must be sick. At the very least because it was depressing, at the very most because it was uplifting. The movie was a "powerful exposé of the way live sex performers are dehumanized by poverty, exploited by their own kin and kind, and driven by desperation to seek a more humane life abroad. Amid such surroundings, however, they still manage to shed tears of redemptive pain and to give care and succor to each other."

Almost unbelievably, I would hear later that one of the arguments the Cro-Magnons like to use against movies like "Live Show"—the image of bulls in a china shop flash in your mind—is that if these movies are indeed artistic, then they are more, and not less, harmful. This is so presumably because they confer respectability on skin flicks in general and allow them to seek refuge in the exotic coves of art. They become the Trojan horse that allows the enemy to slip through. So might as well put the screws on them, too. Or especially on them. Well, *onli in da Pilipins.*

Yet a more breathtaking argument of theirs, and one utterly contemptuous of the public, is that movies like "Live Show" may edify the intelligentsia but they will debase the *masa.* What is art to one is pornography to the other. What is sublime to one is prurient to the other. Consequently, movies like "Live Show" should be confined to art museums and not shown in movie theaters. I leave the public to have their say on people who propose to guard their innocence in this way.

If these were the kind of strict standards Ms Macapagal meant, Tiongson said, he would have none of it. For it would unleash a tide of censorship, the kind that in the past nearly deprived local moviegoers of "Orapronobis," "The Piano," "Schindler's List" and "Belle Epoque."

But it was Tiongson's objection to the President's proposal to restore the MTRCB chair's power to recall movies that made me stand up and applaud. Here was someone who was being offered a way out of his predicament not by making a monumental sacrifice but by accepting a monumental gift—and he would not take it. The proposal would have meant enlarging the scope of Tiongson's authority by leaps and bounds, an offer the greedy could not possibly refuse. To save his job, Tiongson had only to agree to become more powerful, to endure the spectacle of movie producers throwing themselves at his feet. The word "backbone" leaped to my mind again. Though while at that, I thought of Siguion-Reyna too: she was the one who had the vision—and backbone—to clip her own powers.

At his moment of seeming defeat, Tiongson was boundlessly triumphant. It reminded me again of how People Power II happened, making Ms Macapagal its chief and—as she has shown in this case—undeserving beneficiary. It was at the precise moment of defeat—when the Senate voted against the prosecution, and the people—that victory arose in all its resplendence, like the phoenix from the ashes. The people took to the streets to end a tyranny.

That too is what will happen from this, and the taking to the streets won't remain metaphorical for very long. Tiongson has left, or been kicked out, however you want to look at it, but not so the principles he defended at the cost of being the first casualty of presidential betrayal. The whole artistic and intellectual community is astir, moviemakers and theater people, poets and painters, scholars and journalists, girding for war, a war to keep the spirit of People Power II alive. For it was the spirit of freedom and tolerance and decency, and not that of fanaticism and bigotry and hypocrisy, that brought this government to power. It was the people who kept watch in the night and not Cardinal Sin who kept hold of the spotlight who brought this government to power. It was Joey Reyes and Nick Tiongson and the other artists and movie folk who defied their presumed benefactor, armed only with the sublime dream of carving a world fit for the gods, and not Soc Villegas and Sonia Ronda who defy reason and intelligence, armed only with the desperate hope of carving a world fit for slaves, that brought this government to power.

They will rise, and bring back the struggle Lino Brocka once led, a struggle for freedom and tolerance, a struggle that has to be won again and again in this forgetful country. They will rise, and bring Cardinal Sin's own words to echo like thunder in Ms Macapagal's ears:

"You should resign at once. You have no backbone."

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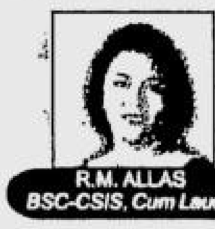

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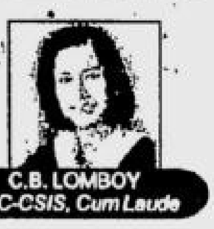

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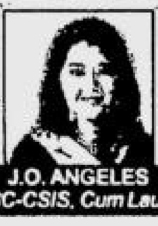

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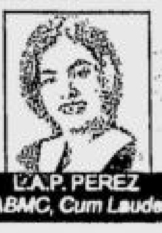

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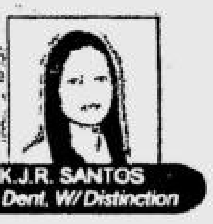

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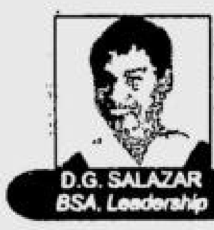

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SPYING FALLOUT

US expels 50 Russian envoys

WASHINGTON—The United States is ordering the expulsion of 50 Russian diplomats in retaliation for the recent arrest of an FBI agent accused of spying for Moscow, US television networks reported Wednesday.

CBS reported that Russian Ambassador Yuri Ushakov was summoned to the State Department and told of the expulsion order.

The MSNBC television network meanwhile said six Russian diplomats was expelled yesterday and 44 others were invited to leave voluntarily in an unspecified period of time. The move was a signal that President George Bush's administration intended to crack down on what is seen as increased Russian spying activities in the United States, MSNBC said.

US officials would not immediately comment on the expulsions, but a senior administration official said Secretary of State Colin Powell had summoned Ushakov to the State Department.

"He did see the Russian ambassador today," the senior official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Powell was expected to address the issue yesterday during a previously scheduled news conference.

Russian Embassy officials here were not available for comment late Wednesday.

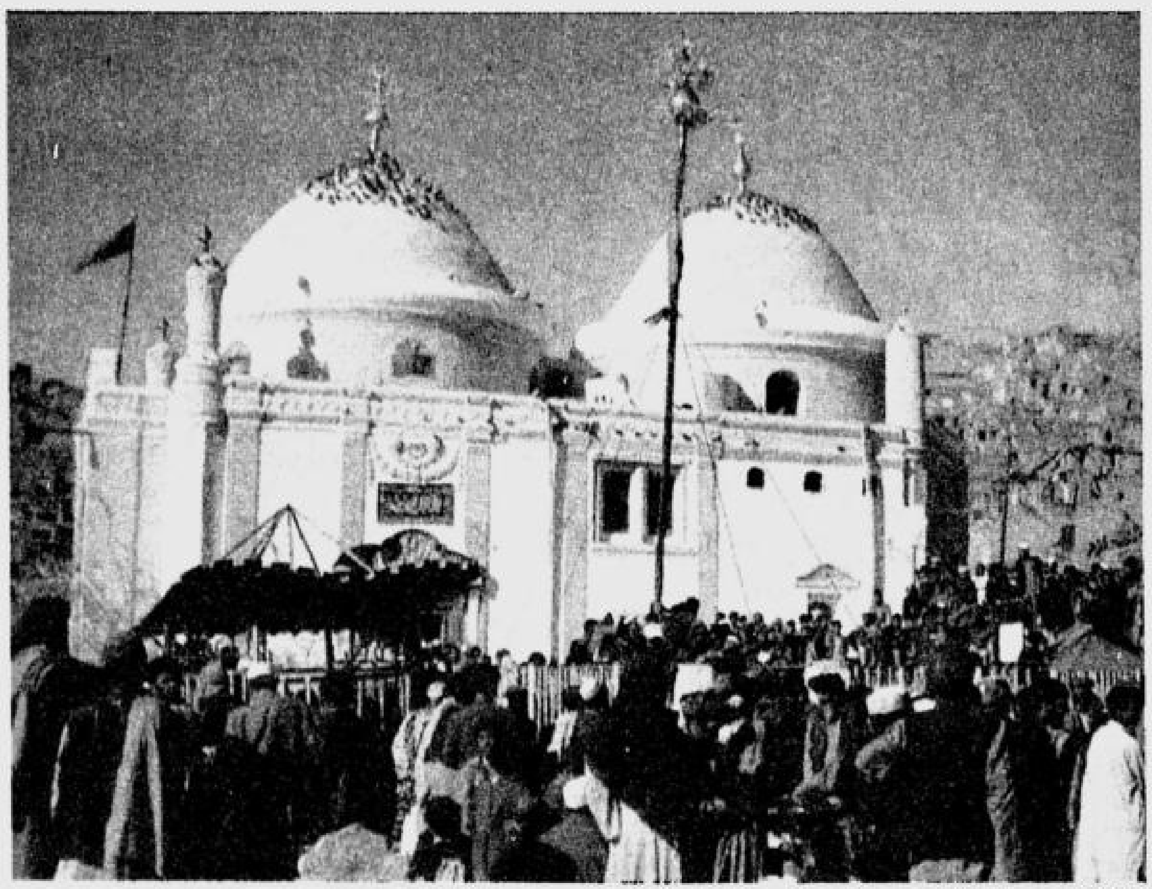
The order, which would mark the first US mass expulsion of Russian diplomats in the post-Soviet era, is likely to provoke retaliation from Moscow. Relations between the two countries have been strained recently.

The expulsions also come slightly more than a month after former FBI counter-intelligence agent Robert Hanssen was arrested after allegedly leaving a package full of classified information in a Virginia park for his Russian handlers.

Hanssen, 56, allegedly began to pass highly sensitive information to Moscow in 1985 and continued to do so even after the fall of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s.

The veteran counter-intelligence officer with 27 years of service at the FBI had virtually unlimited access to state secrets and is believed to have seriously compromised US national security.

The Soviet spy agency KGB and its Russian successor SVR have paid him for his services a total of $1.4 million in cash, diamonds and deposits in a Russian bank, according to court documents. *AFP*



DEFIANT CELEBRATION

REUTERS

Residents of the Afghan capital gather around a shrine to offer prayers to celebrate the start of the New Year March 21. Thousands of Kabul residents marked the Afghan New Year in an ancient ceremony on Wednesday, undeterred by whips of Taliban militiamen who have tried to discourage what they consider an un-Islamic practice.

Vatican admits abuse of nuns by priests

VATICAN CITY—The Vatican has admitted that some of its nuns have suffered sexual abuse from priests, but senior Catholic figures said Wednesday the Church was working to combat the problem.

Vatican spokesperson Joaquin Navarro-Valls admitted that sexual violence had indeed occurred amongst its ranks. A statement from nuns and priests' groups said they were "not insensitive" to the issue and were working against it.

The story, going back six years, was brought into the open a few days ago by the weekly US journal National Catholic Reporter which published extracts from a report sent to the Vatican in 1995 by US nun Sister Mary O'Donohue.

"The matter is known and concerns a limited geographical zone," Navarro-Valls said.

The Holy See had considered the question and was working in two ways: to educate people and to seek solutions in specific cases, he added.

According to O'Donohue's report, cases of sexual harassment and violence have been reported in 23 countries throughout the world—in Africa, Asia, Europe and the United States.

The US nun quoted the case of a priest who had presided over the funeral of a nun who died after undergoing an abortion at his insistence, and that of a community of 20 nuns who had all become pregnant at the same time.

Sister O'Donohue said nuns were sometimes sought after as "safe" partners by priests who were afraid of catching AIDS from prostitutes.

Religious groups said Wednesday that the vast majority of the world's 200,000 Catholic priests and some one million nuns, "faithfully live out their choice of chastity, obedience, poverty and service" to the Church.

"In their lives they every day bear witness to the power of the gospel, even in their own weakness" a statement said.

Father Bernardo Cervellera, head of the missionary agency Fides, said that the cases alleged in the National Catholic Reporter mostly occurred in sub-Saharan Africa. There were only isolated cases elsewhere around the world, he said.

The solution to the problem was focused on education for priests, impressing the importance of celibacy, Cervellera added. *AFP*

Arafat main obstacle to peace, says Sharon

NEW YORK—Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat is "the main obstacle to peace today," Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said in New York Wednesday.

"It's clear that the main obstacle to peace today is Chairman Arafat, who has reverted to terrorism," Sharon told an audience of some 1,500 people attending an event organized by the main US-Jewish organizations.

"All our intelligence reports indicate that Arafat has strategic control of the situation," he added.

Sharon reiterated that Arafat's presidential guard, Force 17, Fatah and its Tanzim militias were directly involved in the ongoing violence against Israelis.

He said that Israel "remains committed to agreements that previous governments have signed that were ratified by the Knesset and implemented by the other side."

However his government would not be bound by "past negotiations that failed," he said. *AFP*

JFK wanted more sabotage done in Cuba, papers show

WASHINGTON—President John F. Kennedy wanted increasing acts of sabotage against Cuba in the days leading up to the Cuban Missile Crisis, more than 400 pages of newly declassified documents reveal.

A secretive advisory group held a meeting on Oct. 4, 1962 to discuss the ongoing work of Operation Mongoose, a once secret plan to cause disruptions in Cuba, including blowing up power stations and planting US intelligence infiltrators. Attorney General Robert Kennedy, who was tapped by his brother to oversee Mongoose, attended.

"The attorney general informed the group that higher authority was concerned about the progress on the Mongoose program and felt that more priority should be given to trying to mount sabotage operations," minutes from the meeting said.

From other reports, it is understood that "higher authority" refers to President Kennedy, said Anna Nelson, a historian at American University and a member of the JFK Assassination Records Review Board, which sought the release of the documents.

The records also say that they discussed mining Cuban waters, "using non-attributable mines appearing to be homemade and laid by small aircraft operated by Cubans."

Nelson said that plan didn't become reality.

"Either they never did it or we never knew about it," she said.

The declassified documents now available at the National Archives provide a glimpse inside the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, a group of civilian experts gathered as an independent source of advice on intelligence matters. First formed in 1956, the group's impact has varied among administrations, but it had considerable influence during the Kennedy years.

After the failed US-backed Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in April 1961, Kennedy sought improved intelligence gathering and officially formed his version of the advisory group. His executive order directed the board to review intelligence work, including "highly sensitive covert operations relating to political action, propaganda, economic warfare, sabotage, escape and evasion, subversion against hostile states."

The document adds that "these covert operations are to be conducted in such manner that, if uncovered, the US government can plausibly disclaim responsibility for them." *AP*

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Army to quell backlash from Wahid ouster

JAKARTA—Indonesia's defense minister Mohammad Mahfud yesterday warned of a military crackdown if supporters of President Abdurrahman Wahid created chaos if he was forced to resign.

"If constitutionally (Wahid) has to step down, they (his supporters) must not resist a constitutional outcome," Mahfud said.

"If they resist and resort to violence, it will provide a sufficient excuse for security forces to take actions," Mahfud told journalists at a press conference.

It was the first time one of Wahid's ministers had openly broached the possibility of the president losing his battle with parliament to stay in office.

The statement came as parliament, which censured the president on Feb. 1 for his alleged involvement in two financial scandals, ratcheted up the pressure in its efforts to force Wahid out.

Some MPs have begun drafting a second censure motion—a prerequisite for the lower house to call for a special national assembly session that could impeach Wahid. Others are trying to revive a four-month-old petition against him accusing him of violating his oath of office.

Mahfud, who on Wednesday said Wahid would not mind "being asked to resign if there's a constitutional basis for it," yesterday clarified his statement saying he currently saw "no constitutional basis" for forcing him out.

He also denied press reports that his comments had contradicted statements made by presidential spokesperson Wimar Witoelar, who said he saw "absolutely no indication that the president is willing to resign . . . The president has absolutely no intention to resign."

Witoelar added Wahid was still determined to serve out the remainder of his term to 2004.

Both his and Witoelar's statements were "basically similar—that the president will not resign from his post unless there are constitutional reasons and constitutional procedures," Mahfud said.

Wahid, the country's first democratically elected president, has remained defiant despite the mounting calls to quit, saying he has the support of the people.

Mahfud also urged the public not to be "emotional and go berserk" amid the country's political confusion.

Vice President Megawati Sukarnoputri, who would most likely succeed Wahid, has remained silent on the issue.

But 45 legislators from her political party, the Indonesian Democratic Party for Struggle (PDIP) are among the 151 signatories to the petition charging that Wahid violated his oath of office.

The PDIP, which holds the largest bloc of seats in parliament, also took part in the February censure motion and has joined forces with eight other parties calling on the house to draw up a second censure before parliament goes into recess on April 2. *AFP*

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OSTRICHES wear rings in their noses to prevent them from damaging their skins on a farm in Israel's Jordan Valley March 20. Israel's ostrich farmers are experiencing a greater demand for ostrich meat than they can fill from European clients in the wake of the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in Europe. REUTERS

Foot-and-mouth woes still to clear peak, says expert

LONDON—As Britain's foot-and-mouth count climbed above 430 cases, a leading epidemiologist said the epidemic had yet to peak and would not be over for at least five months.

With 435 cases of the disease confirmed by early Thursday, Prime Minister Tony Blair insisted rural Britain was open for business and said local elections would be held as planned in May.

Roy Anderson, a University of London scientist who studied the pattern of the disease for the government, said foot-and-mouth would not be eliminated before August, with the rate of new outbreaks unlikely to start falling until May.

"I think everybody's in agreement, both the government, the farming community and the independent scientific advice, that this epidemic is not under control at the current point in time," Anderson told the British Broadcasting Corp's "Newsnight" program on Wednesday.

"If this cull is applied vigorously and effectively enough you could turn the epidemic into a decaying process hopefully within a month to two months," he added.

Anderson said the epidemic was more severe than the last major foot-and-mouth crisis in 1967, which saw 2,000 individual outbreaks and almost half a million animals slaughtered.

"Although the 1967 epidemic was serious," he told the BBC, "this one is likely to be worse."

The closure of hundreds of parks, pathways and attractions in the wake of the disease has devastated the rural economy, and opposition politicians have urged Blair to postpone local council elections in England scheduled for May 3.

"What sort of signal would this sent out for the country as a whole?" responded Blair. "We don't want to send out a message, particularly for the tourist trade, that the country is in some kind of quarantine or closed for business."

The government vowed Wednesday to speed up the process of destroying slaughtered animals—275,000 of whom have been killed so far—and denied accusations it had covered up the outbreak. Suspicions arose after two timber merchants said they had been contacted by the Ministry of Agriculture about supplying wood for burning carcasses in the event of a foot-and-mouth outbreak. *AP*

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Japan, Russia settle islands dispute

TOKYO—Japan and Russia plan to state in writing for the first time in decades that a 1956 Soviet agreement approving the return to Japan of two disputed islands remains in effect, news reports yesterday said. The islands, off Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido, were captured by Soviet troops at the end of World War II. Japan still claims them as its own, and the bitter row has prevented Tokyo and Moscow from signing a peace treaty. Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori and Russian President Vladimir Putin will likely describe the 1956 agreement as a "legal basis" for future negotiations in a joint declaration to follow their summit Sunday in Irkutsk, eastern Siberia, the Nihon Keizai financial daily said, citing unidentified government sources. *AP*

Macedonia leader to army: Establish order

SKOPJE—Macedonian President Boris Trajkovski ordered his Army to "establish order on the borders" in a statement late Wednesday just minutes before an ultimatum to ethnic Albanian rebels expired. "Terrorism must be eliminated and we condemn the use of arms for political motives," Trajkovski, who is also commander in chief of the armed forces, said after an emergency meeting with the leaders of political parties. His government had given the rebels to midnight to give themselves up or leave Macedonia, or face renewed shelling of their positions by the Army. The guerrillas, who say they are fighting for more rights for Macedonia's Albanian minority, hours earlier said they were observing a unilateral ceasefire with the view to starting negotiations with Skopje. *AFP*

China, US open talks

WASHINGTON—Vice Premier Qian Qichen arrived for China's first high-level talks with the new US administration on Wednesday, with potential clashes looming over Taiwan, human rights and Washington's plans for a missile defense shield. Secretary of State Colin Powell welcomed Qian to the State Department for talks and a dinner, as both men acknowledged their talks would broach areas of deep differences. Despite the diplomatic niceties, Sino-US ties—tense since Republican President George W. Bush entered the White House in January—took a further lurch back Wednesday as Washington called on Beijing to free a US-based scholar held on state security charges. Gao Zhan was detained along with her husband and five-year-old son in Beijing in February, and US officials said reports that the boy, Andrew Xue, was held for 26 days away from his parents were "outrageous." *AFP*

4 new ethnic attacks rock Malaysia

SHAH ALAM, Malaysia—Four fresh attacks on minority Indians have been carried out in a poor area where recent ethnic clashes left six dead, Malaysian police yesterday said. The attacks Wednesday were by "certain people" who want to prolong clashes between Indians and Malays, said Selangor state police chief Nik Ismail Nik Yusuf. "There are certain people who want this to drag on and to create instability in the country. They do not do anything for a day or two, then when there is a lull they hit again," he told a news conference. Nik Ismail said police did not know the attackers' identity or whether they were locals or foreigners. In the latest incidents, he said four Indians were attacked separately over a two-hour period early Wednesday by Malays armed with baseball bats and machetes near Kampung Medan. *AFP*

Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

NEGLECT, CORRUPTION CITED

RP irrigation facilities deteriorating

BY TONETTE OREJAS
PDI Central Luzon Desk

ARAYAT, Pampanga—The government's irrigation program, hailed by the World Bank as one of the best in the world during the 1960s, has deteriorated due to corruption, lack of maintenance budget and displacement of ditch tenders.

"It has turned from good to bad," Cesar Gonzales, National Irrigation Administration chief, said Wednesday of the government's irrigation program for 670,000 hectares of agricultural land and 1.3 million farming families.

"(The) NIA's mandate is to deliver water to the farmers on time and at (the) quantity needed. But that is not being done," said Gonzales, who led the team that built two of the country's biggest dams—Pantabangan in Nueva Ecija and Magat in Cagayan Valley.

He also served as consultant to the World Bank and other funding institutions before returning last January to the NIA, which he served for 25 years.

Corruption, he said, has pervaded the NIA especially in the tasks of procurement, collection of irrigation service fees and management of equipment.

Collection scam

Often, booklets of collection receipts and equipment parts are missing, collections are underreported and equipment like bulldozers and backhoes are rented out to non-farmers, he said.

Gonzales said Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor has emphasized the need to eliminate corruption in the NIA, an agency attached to the Department of Agriculture.

Deposed President Joseph Estrada's so-called pro-poor policy of scrapping the irrigation service fee has only served to fan corruption among collection personnel, Gonzales said.

Doing away with the fee, one of the two major revenue sources of the NIA, but without giving appropriate subsidy to the agency has forced a number of personnel in the field to underreport their collections, he said.

"Instead of issuing official receipts, they have substituted these with cigarette foil wrappers. How can you monitor the collections that way?" he asked.

Organizational streamlining has displaced 70 percent of the ditch tenders or *canaleros*, those whom Gonzales described as vital field personnel, "people whom farmers can talk to."

Folly

Estrada, according to him, realized the folly of the policy and ordered the farmers to pay half of the amount of the irrigation service fee.

The NIA charges an irrigation fee of P1,000 a hectare during the rainy season and P1,200 a hectare during the dry season.

The amount covers only the cost of delivering water and does not include the construction cost of the facility. Still, the collection rate has not normalized and remained at 42 percent from a high of 75 percent two years ago.

Because of the poor collection rate of irrigation service fees, some 2,000 of more than 10,000 NIA employees all over the country have not been receiving their salaries for the last three months, Gonzales said.

Most of the affected employees are from the Bicol region.

Servicing 670,000 hectares of agricultural land, the NIA remains the country's main irrigator. Farmers managing communal systems and private irrigators association serve a combined total of 730,000 hectares.

Maintenance

But while the NIA gets funds for the construction of irrigation facilities, there are minimal funds for the maintenance of these.

Gonzales estimated that the agency has been neglecting about 230,000 hectares because of poorly maintained dikes and dams.

He said the agency still has a tough task: Irrigate 1.6 million hectares of farms.

The NIA could not immediately tackle this need, he said, adding that the 5 percent that it earns from managing the construction of projects—either foreign assisted or funded by the Countrywide Development Fund of legislators or by Congress appropriations—is used to support the operations of the central office.

Gonzales said the NIA is an agency gasping for life. Last year, the agency got P5 billion from various projects. This year, it still has no project budget. This year, it received only P2 billion for corporate funds, mainly for operations.

Corporation

"It cannot be a corporation because it has not been self-supporting. It cannot be privatized because the farmers do not shoulder the construction cost, just the delivery services. (The option left to it is to) be converted into a bureau of the agriculture department (so its work can be sustained)," he said.

The NIA, according to him, needs P1 billion a year to maintain the existing irrigation systems throughout the country.

Among 14 regions, it is only Central Luzon that has the biggest network of irrigation systems covering some 200,000 hectares of farms, Gonzales said.

There is the Angat-Maasin dam servicing Pampanga and Bulacan. There is the Pantabangan Dam that serves Nueva Ecija, Pampanga and Bulacan.

Phivolcs bans trekking as Kanlaon acts up

BY CARLA GOMEZ
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) has banned trekking to the Kanlaon Volcano starting yesterday after it noted seismic activity that could lead to ash explosions.

In an advisory issued on Wednesday, the Phivolcs also advised residents that the four-kilometer radius pre-defined as Permanent Danger Zone should be avoided at all times.

"Since January this year earthquake clusters or occurrences were recorded by the seismic monitoring network around the volcano," said the Phivolcs advisory.

"These earthquakes may signify a reactivation of the volcanic system at depth and could be a precursor to more vigorous activity such as ash explosions," it said.

Errol Gatumbato, Mt. Kanlaon Natural Park superintendent, said the peak of the trekking season to Mt. Kanlaon is in April especially during the Holy Week.

But, he added, they had cancelled all permits and bookings to forthcoming climbs because of the Phivolcs advisory.

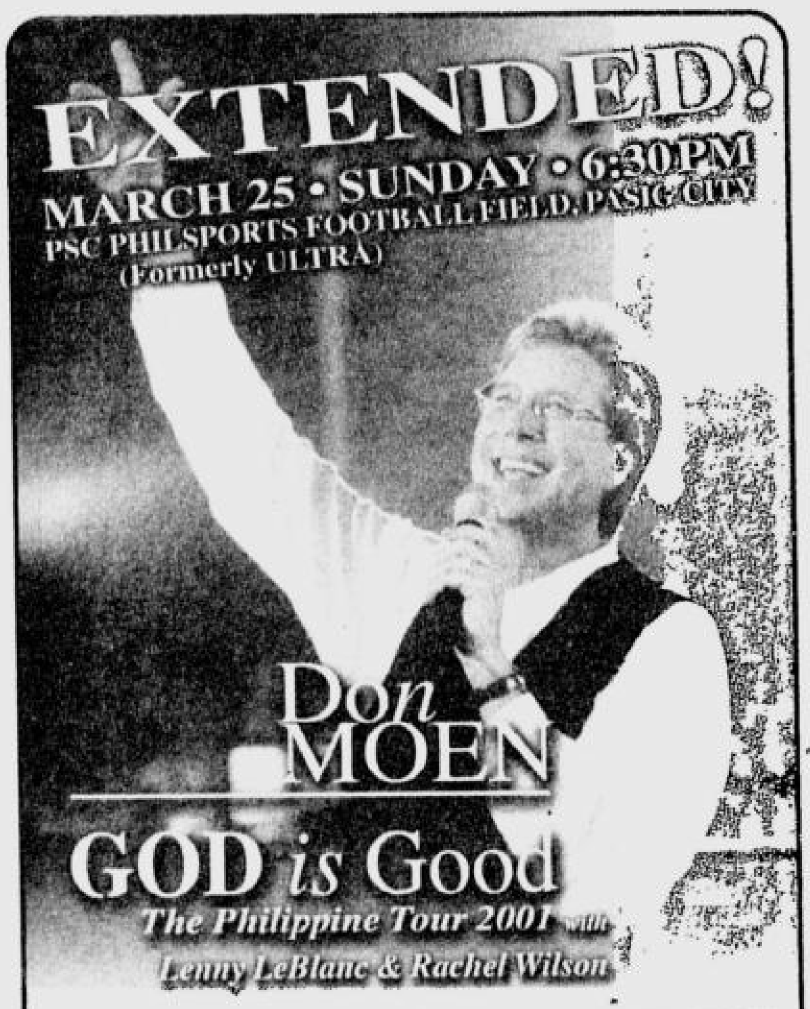
The different entrance stations leading to the summit are being strictly monitored to prevent entry to the park, he said.

"We are also working with the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council for contingencies and preparations (in the event of an eruption)," he said.

Kanlaon is considered the highest peak in the Visayas with a height of 2,465 meters. The active volcano is located within the 25,000-hectare Mt. Kanlaon National Park in the boundary of La Castellana town and the cities of La Carlota and Bago in Negros Occidental and Canlaon City in Negros Oriental.

The volcano's last explosion was in 1996 where a Briton and two Filipinos died after they were hit by hot rocks and ash spewed from the crater.

The victims were among the 21 trekkers composed of 10 Belgians, two Britons and nine Filipinos, who were trapped near the crater during the volcano's phreatic explosion on Aug. 10, 1996.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NPAs demand 'access fees' from Cebu bets

CEBU CITY—Two candidates in Cebu's third district received a letter supposedly from the National Democratic Front demanding "access fees" for the candidates to be allowed to campaign in so-called NPA territories.

Reelectionist board member Andres Corominas said he received the letter last week. He said it was handed to him by an official of the mountain barangay of Amatugan in Tuburan town.

Incumbent Mayor Yolanda Toong of the adjacent town of Asturias also received a similar letter that was given to her by one of her staff members.

The letter was addressed to her husband Welito Toong, former town mayor who is planning to run for mayor again and take the place of his wife.

Corominas and Toong said they received separate letters from one Mario Santos who was identified in the letters as a leader of the NDF.

In the letter, Santos informed the two candidates that the communist group was determined "more than ever" to implement its revolutionary policies on the May 2001 elections.

These policies include the imposition of "appropriate fees upon all election candidates who personally, or through other means, conduct election-related activities within and at the periphery of the various guerrilla fronts in the region."

The letter did not, however, indicate how much these "appropriate fees" cost. But Santos had invited both Toong and Corominas for "discreet talks" in the third week of March.

The other policies, Santos said, include a prohibition on the employment of hired or armed goons and bodyguards, a guideline on the conduct of ward leaders and campaigners, a ban on carrying of firearms, another guideline on the use of campaign vehicles and materials and campaign activities "acceptable to the revolutionary peasant masses."

"Only after an agreement between NDF negotiators and politician-candidates has been reached will the people's democratic government issue the appropriate 'NDF permit to campaign,'" the letter said.

Santos warned that those found violating the guidelines "shall be meted immediate and commensurate punitive measures."

He also said the three communist fronts in Bohol and another in Cebu had been informed of this policy.

Corominas, also the president of the Cebu Provincial Bus Operators, said he would check with his "sources" to determine if the letter indeed came from the NDF.

He said he had not seen any armed individual or group when he visited the mountain villages in the third district during weekends.

Toong said she had already turned over the letter to the police provincial command for appropriate action.

Corominas and Toong are running under the Probinsya Muna Development Initiative (Promdi).

Asturias and Tuburan are part of the mid-northern towns that are under the communist-led Central Visayas Regional Party Committee (CVRPC) Front 2.

The New People's Army had raided the Tuburan municipal hall and the police station in the 1980s. Several high-powered firearms were taken during that raid.

Roger Paller, PDI Visayas Bureau

ON THE RUN

They're coming out of the woodwork. The ongoing election campaign has drawn an array of politicians, including those evading the law, like Pablo Villaber, a convicted swindler who is running under the Lakas-NUCD for congressman of the first district of Davao del Sur and who has eluded arrest.

ALLAN NAWAL

Elections open floodgates to new tabloids

COTABATO CITY—Local tabloids suddenly bloomed like mushrooms in newsstands here as the May 14 elections draw near.

A few months earlier, at least five new tabloids surfaced to the delight of local readers.

Among the newcomers are: The Voice of Islam, Cotabato Correspondents, Mindanao Chronicle, Voice of Mindanao, and Dateline Mindanao.

There are also newspapers that are published in other areas of Mindanao but are circulated here in limited copies, according to local news dealers. These are the Central Mindanao Inquirer, People's Daily Forum and the Fiscalizer of Davao City, The Gold Star Daily of Cagayan de Oro City, The Mindanao Express of Kidapawan City, and The Mindanao Journal of Tacurong in Sultan Kudarat.

Among the mainstay and considered pioneering tabloids are: The Mindanao Cross, The New Mindanao Kris, Mindanao Trend, Mindanao News Bulletin, Kutawato Express and Free Mindanao Headliner.

"We don't really know if these papers will last like (Mindanao) Cross which is 52 years old," said Noel Punzalan, Cotabato bureau chief of the state-owned Philippine News Agency (PNA).

Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Violence takes toll on La Union polls

BALAOAN, La Union—A week after a mayoral candidate here survived an ambush, pre-election violence erupted anew Thursday when a follower of another mayoral candidate was gunned down in front of his house in Barangay Ar-arampang.

The killing came on the heels of requests by candidates here for police security and for the Commissidn on Elections to put this town immediately under its control.

Supt. Samuel Diciano, La Union police director, said Ricky Tolentino, 43, a janitor at the municipal hall, was shot and killed by a lone gunman who barged into his house's kitchen while he and his wife were eating breakfast.

The suspect reportedly fled aboard a motorcycle.

Tolentino, the third victim of politically motivated killings here, was said to be a follower of incumbent Mayor Joaquin Ostrea Jr., Lakas-NUCD mayoral candidate in the May 14 elections.

Ostrea is running for reelection against former Mayor Casiano Ledda of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino.

Ledda survived an ambush here last week.

In January this year, Peter Ragmac, an Ostrea follower, was tortured and killed. His body bore bullet wounds and his palm was smashed.

Three weeks ago, Mario Olivar, Ledda's follower, was shot dead in broad daylight in a machine shop here.

Diciano said they have filed murder charges against the suspects in the deaths of Ragmac and Olivar before the municipal trial court.

Board Member Alfred Concepcion, Ostrea's running mate, asked the Comelec to put this town under its control or "we'll all be eliminated."

Lawyer Andrew Barcenas, provincial election officer, told the INQUIRER that Ledda made an urgent request on Wednesday for the Comelec to place the town under its control.

Barcenas said as early as Feb. 21, he already recommended to the national Comelec office to place Balaoan under their agency's control.

He said an en banc resolution is needed for the approval of his recommendation as he was expecting the poll body to decide on the issue soon.

However, he said, the Comelec usually places a town under its control a day before and a day after the elections.

Diciano said he would only grant the candidates' request for police bodyguards if the Comelec would approve it.

"We don't have enough cops," he said, adding that he has asked the police's regional mobile group for additional personnel. *Peter La. Julian, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Gov't urged to pursue Clark, Subic highway

FORMER Press Secretary Ricardo "Dong" Puno Jr. urged the government to pursue without letup plans to interconnect the Subic Bay Freeport Zone in Zambales and the Clark Special Economic Zone in Pampanga to further develop Central Luzon's chief economic corridor and develop the two sites as Asia's Silicon Valley.

In a statement, Puno, a former corporate executive, said this move would not only create more jobs for the people of Luzon, but would also prime Subic and Clark to be among Asia's top investment havens.

In various engagements here and in Guagua, Pampanga since Wednesday, Puno said the two former US military bases could become more competitive as investment sites if these were linked by a highway network that will facilitate access and transport between Clark and Subic.

Puno welcomed reports that the Department of Finance plans to raise between $3 billion to $5 billion out of the securitization of assets of the Subic and Clark economic zones to form a "super fund" that could be used to raise revenue for the cash-strapped government.

He said a portion of this so-called super fund could be tapped to bankroll the highway project that would link Subic's naval facilities to Clark's international airport.

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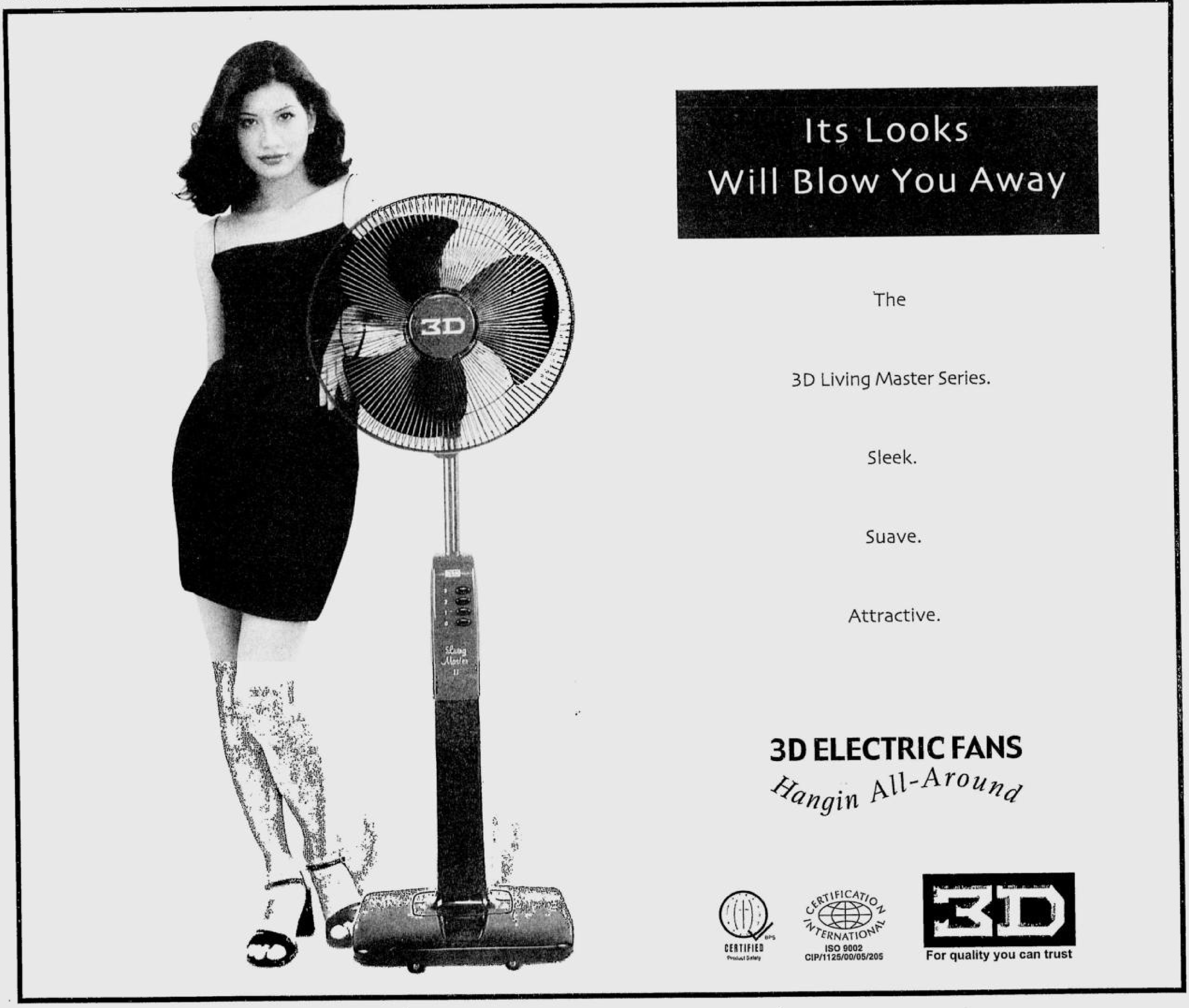

Judge suspended over seized rice

CEBU CITY—A regional trial court judge was suspended for three months for ordering the release of 25,000 sacks of rice that were seized by authorities on suspicion that these were smuggled.

In a resolution dated Jan. 31, the Supreme Court third division upheld its earlier decision to suspend Judge Ireneo Gako of Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 5 for gross ignorance of the law.

The High Court also warned Gako that a similar offense in the future would be dealt with more severely.

The Supreme Court junked Gako's motion to reconsider its Oct. 24 decision to suspend him for lack of merit after the judge failed to raise substantial arguments.

Lawyer Sam Ocampo of the Supreme Court legal division said the Supreme Court decision would mean that the order to suspend Gako "automatically becomes final and executory" and would take effect when the judge receives a copy of the resolution.

It was not certain if Gako had received a copy of the resolution.

Lawyer Manuel Nollora, RTC Branch 5 clerk of court, said Gako informed them that he was taking a leave of absence beginning March 5.

He said they were not aware of any order to suspend the judge except from what he heard in the news.

Gako had also refused to answer questions from reporters.

The case stemmed from the complaint of then Executive Secretary Ronaldo Zamora who questioned Gako's order releasing the 25.000 bags of rice from Palawan.

The rice shipment was confiscated by the Economic Intelligence and Investigation Bureau (EIIB) on Dec. 8, 1998 at the Port of Cebu on suspicion that these were smuggled.

The Bureau of Customs issued a warrant of seizure and detention for the goods as well as the nine trucks used to transport the goods.

Mark Montelibano and Elson Ogario were listed as the claimants of the goods, which were shipped aboard the MV Alberto.

The claimants sought the assistance of the court by filing a petition for injunction, seeking a temporary restraining order against the Bureau of Customs to prevent them from conducting forfeiture proceedings and holding the bags of rice.

Gako later ruled in favor of the claimants, saying the Bureau of Customs had no jurisdiction because the bags of rice were "neither smuggled nor imported."

The Office of the Court Administrator conducted the investigation and later recommended Gako's suspension for six months.

But in a resolution dated Oct. 24, 2000, the Supreme Court third division reduced the penalty to three months, saying a six-month suspension was too harsh. *Jolene Bulambot with a report from Roger Paller, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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Australian shot dead in Iloilo

BY N. BURGOS JR.
PDI Visayas Bureau

TYLER

ILOILO CITY—An Australian engineer who taught at a university here was shot dead inside his house in a subdivision yesterday morning.

The victim was identified as Michael Tomas Tyler, 58.

Police discovered the victim lying face up in the dining room of his two-bedroom bungalow on Opal Street, Remonville Subdivision, Barangay Tabuc Suba in Jaro District.

SPO3 Virgilio de los Reyes, police investigator, said Tyler suffered a gunshot wound in the left side of his chest but was still alive when they found him.

De los Reyes said the Australian still had a heartbeat when they brought him to the West Visayas State University Hospital. He, however, died at 8:45 a.m.

De los Reyes said the unidentified suspect could have shot the victim from the iron gate of the house while Tyler was inside and fled after the wounded Tyler shouted for help.

The police went to Tyler's house at around 8:15 a.m. after receiving a call from Tyler's neighbor, Josephine Conjosta, that she heard two gunshots from the Australian's house.

Conjosta, a teacher who lives across Tyler's house, told police that she heard him cry out, "Help! Help!" after the gunshots.

Police were looking into reports that the victim had a fistfight with an unidentified resident of the subdivision the night before his death.

Armed men kill city vice mayor

MALAYBALAY CITY—Armed men believed to be communist rebels killed reelectionist Vice Mayor Jeremias Santacerra of San Fernando, Bukidnon on Wednesday morning.

The New People's Army claimed responsibility for the killing. Ariel Magbanua, NPA spokesperson in Bukidnon, in a statement sent to radio station dxDB, said Santacerra was meted "revolutionary justice" for the various crimes he allegedly committed.

Santacerra was in his farmhouse in Sitio Sulog in San Fernando when armed men arrived and shot him.

Magbanua said the killing had nothing to do with the coming elections. He said the death sentence was long overdue but was carried out only on Wednesday.

Magbanua claimed that Santacerra, as a police officer during the Marcos era, conducted illegal arrests and tortured suspected rebels.

He was also accused of conducting illegal searches of farmers' homes and other human rights violations.

He said Santacerra also committed anti-revolutionary acts like forced recruitment of militiamen and the setting up of a network of local informers.

He was also accused of having been involved in illegal logging, selling of fake gold bars and illegal drugs, allegedly in cahoots with some police and military officials.

The San Fernando police said the victim received death threats in October last year, but apparently did not take them seriously.

Santacerra was mayor of San Fernando from 1988 and 1998.

He ran for vice mayor in 1998. Prior to his death, he was seeking reelection under Lakas.

H. Marcos Mordeno, PDI Mindanao Bureau

ROUNDUP

Firearms seized

DIGOS CITY—Authorities in Kabacan, North Cotabato seized at least two unlicensed firearms from a bunkhouse of a barangay councilor in Osias Village on Monday. The seizure of the firearms came after a tip from some residents. Kabacan Mayor Wilfredo Bataga said Jun Quiao would be charged with illegal possession of firearms. Some residents expressed willingness to testify against the barangay councilor.

Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Curriculum pushed

TUGUEGARAO CITY—A Cagayan bishop called on candidates to legislate a morality-centered education curriculum when elected to produce morally upright leaders and citizens in the country. Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan, chair of the health commission of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, said the proposed curriculum should be the core of all subjects in public and private schools to mold the values of graduates. He said molding morally upright students and graduates would address rampant "immorality" and "dishonesty" in government.

Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Graduation speakers

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Three senatorial candidates took advantage of graduation ceremonies in the province to reach out to voters. Former Securities and Exchange Commission chair Perfecto Yasay, an independent senatorial candidate, told graduates of Cagayan Colleges Tuguegarao to make life more meaningful for them and the country. At the Cagayan State University (CSU), former Senate President Franklin Drilon talked about the "importance of character in the life of a professional" while former Speaker Manuel Villar Jr. urged graduates of another CSU campus in the province to go "entrepreneurial" and pursue self-employment.

Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

PNP chief probe sought

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Southern Tagalog Region police director Chief Supt. Domingo Reyes Jr. has ordered an investigation of Palawan provincial police director Supt. Danilo Gaoiran who allegedly beat up a security guard in Puerto Princesa City. Supt. Arsenio Pinacate, regional information officer, said security guard Gorgio Dioso Jr., 34, had filed a complaint against Gaoiran at the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG). Dioso alleged that Gaoiran went out of a bar at 2:30 a.m. drunk, accosted him and for no apparent reason, kicked and punched him and threatened to shoot him if he ran away. Dioso alleged that three motorcycle riding men had been making suspicious rounds near his house lately, which prompted him to leave for Manila. Gaoiran now faces criminal and administrative charges before the CIDG, Pinacate said.

Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Gov's backer killed

LEGAZPI CITY—The Philippine National Police in Sorsogon is investigating the killing on Saturday of a staunch supporter and friend of Sorsogon Gov. Raul Lee. Rodrigo "Tete" Chua, 55, of Barangay Bibingcahan Sorsogon City, a Chinese businessman and an identified political leader of Lee, was gunned down by still unidentified teen-looking suspects inside a cockpit in Barangay Gabao, Bacon, Sorsogon, reports reaching the Bicol police regional office here said. Supt. Roque Ramirez, Sorsogon police provincial director, said Chua was shot by the suspects who used .45 cal. and 9 mm pistols. In February, Bacon town Mayor Leovic Dioneda and his group were ambushed by unidentified men in a far-flung village of Bacon town.

Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Vendors defy order

LEGAZPI CITY—Some 300 market vendors vowed to stay put, and die fighting if needed, as they reclaimed the old public market area here in defiance of the city government's order settling them elsewhere. Hundreds of makeshift stalls sprouted overnight at the site of the burnt old public market in the downtown area built by small business people who were complaining of lack of customers at the new satellite market located at the new business district of the city. Virgilio Banton, 47, the group's appointed spokesperson, told the INQUIRER that like most of them, his family lost almost everything due to high rental costs and payment of debts at usurious rates in the last two years that they did business at the new site. "Nobody buys from us at the satellite market because of its distance. We are losing much already. Even if it causes our life, we will not leave this place," Banton said in Filipino.

Roly Embile, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila Hi 34° Lo 23°	Baguio Hi 27° Lo 15°	Tuguegarao Hi 34° Lo 23°	Laoag Hi 33° Lo 23°
Clark Zone Hi 35° Lo 23°	Tagaytay Hi 33° Lo 22°	Legazpi Hi 32° Lo 25°	Calapan Hi 33° Lo 23°
Bacolod Hi 32° Lo 24°	Roxas Hi 31° Lo 25°	Cebu Hi 32° Lo 25°	Tacloban Hi 32° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos Hi 32° Lo 23°	Zamboanga Hi 30° Lo 24°	Cagayan de Oro Hi 33° Lo 24°	Davao Hi 31° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research

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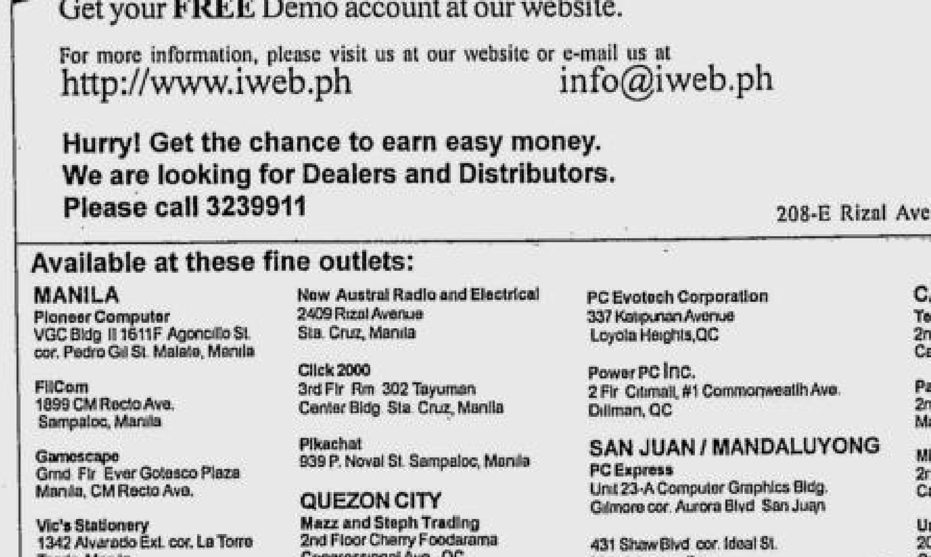

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Mir crashes back to earth today

(From page A1)

The dump zone centers roughly around 44 degrees south latitude and 150 degrees west longitude in a huge ocean area between New Zealand and Chile.

At 0033 GMT today (8:33 a.m., Manila), flight engineers will fire a first engine burst, a second one an hour-and-a-half later, and a third three hours after.

A symbol of Soviet space prowess when it was launched in 1986, Mir set endurance records that were the envy of the better funded US space program. But Russia decided last year to dump the increasingly accident-prone station because of safety fears.

Most of the station will burn up as it re-enters the earth's atmosphere, leaving about 20-40 tons to splash down in the South Pacific. These super-heated chunks that survive re-entry temperatures of 1,500 degrees Celsius should crash harmlessly into the ocean between 0620 and 0630 GMT (2:20 and 2:30 p.m., Manila), say officials.

Nevertheless, Moscow has taken out a $200-million insurance policy in case plans go awry.

Japan has gotten a serious case of the jitters because it is likely to be the last populated area under the space station's final path. Mir is expected to cross over Siberia and North Korea before passing over the central or southern part of Japan, on its way to the South Pacific. Moscow has repeatedly assured Japanese officials that the re-entry plan poses no threat to Japanese lives.

Mir's primary computer includes its altitude control system, which had to be activated to align the station. Russian space officials had let the uninhabited station drift in a slow rolling motion to conserve fuel and battery power. Thrusters were fired shortly after computer control was regained yesterday to stop the rolling.

A spokeswoman for ground control outside Moscow said the craft was cruising around the earth with its solar panels turned to the sun to give the station's batteries much-needed power to keep it in place for the final push down.

Mir has outlived its intended life span three times over. It has flirted with disaster several times, suffering an on-board fire, a collision with a cargo vessel and failures of its main computer that plunged it into darkness.

But the station, home to 106 cosmonauts and astronauts during its eventful career, will also leave a legacy of unrivalled experience in long-term manned space flight that could help future generations visit Mars.

A US-Russian expedition has gathered in Fiji for a flight to record the space station's final moments on high-definition television. The group includes Mir veteran Sergei Avdeyev, who spent 747 days in space, the only human being to have toasted the New Year three times while in orbit.

His 48-strong group of scientists, space journalists, cameramen and fee-paying passengers plan to fly to within a few hundred kilometers of Mir's re-entry into the atmosphere. *Report from AP and Reuters*

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Estrada . . .

(From page A1)

at best."

Ocier has claimed that he handed the check for P189.7 million to businessman Jaime Dichaves, who, in turn, delivered the check to Estrada.

It was the first time that the disgraced President submitted a reply to the host of corruption, graft and plunder cases filed against him with the Office of the Ombudsman.

Estrada urged Desierto to dismiss the plunder case, which is now under investigation by the Office of the Ombudsman.

He said Desierto should instead criminally charge Jimenez, Ocier, Pascual and Arellano.

Contrary to the claims of Arellano and Pascual, Estrada said he never interfered with the transactions of GSIS and SSS.

"Obviously, Attorney Pascual's testimonies are contradictory and full of lies," he said.

"First, he said that as of Oct. 6, 1999 he hasn't complied yet with my order to buy Belle shares because he was not comfortable with Belle Corp. If indeed he was not comfortable with Belle shares because it was perceived to have a speculative flavor, then why was GSIS trading Belle shares as of Sept. 27, 1999 (to Oct. 21, 1999)?"

"Surely, it was not because of my "alleged order" because as Attorney Arellano had narrated, I allegedly had to follow up the purchase of Belle shares with him again on Oct. 6, 1999," Estrada said.

Pascual and Arellano's affidavits showed that the GSIS bought 351.8 million Belle shares worth P1,102,965,607 (equal to almost one board set), while SSS bought 239.8 million Belle shares worth P744,612,450 (equal to one board seat).

The SSS made a one-time purchase on Oct. 29, 1999, while the GSIS bought the shares through a series of transactions from on Oct. 13-21, 1999.

Estrada also belied the allegation that the acquisition of Belle shares was anomalous.

He pointed out that the GSIS Investment Committee approved the purchase through Resolution No. 99-08-51. "The resolution only confirms the fact that the transaction was aboveboard and was GSIS' own decision to engage in said business," he said.

On Arellano's allegations, Estrada said these were baseless and inconsistent.

"Similar to what GSIS did, the purchase of Belle shares by SSS was done upon the approval of its Investment Department, not me. The investment was a company decision and I did not have anything to do with it," he said.

"Concededly I do not have to order GSIS or SSS to buy Belle shares as they are fully authorized under the law to do so. Thus, at the time GSIS and SSS brought Belle shares they were only exercising a right granted to them by law," he added.

He also lambasted Jimenez for saying that he helped facilitate the approval of Belle's application for a jai alai franchise from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

"In return for such favor, I allegedly told Jimenez to ask cash from Belle. Since Belle was experiencing liquidity problems at that time, my request for cash was instead converted to stocks. I was given by Belle an option to buy P650 million shares of Belle at a uniform price of P2.30 per share.

"Allegedly, upon my instruction Ocier and Arellano agreed on how the option to buy the P650 million shares would be taken up," he said.

Estrada said that Jimenez had further alleged that it would be the GSIS and the SSS that would purchase the shares through a cross-transaction with Belle in the Philippine Stock Exchange at a price one peso higher the P2.30.

After the purchase, it was Dichaves, Estrada's close friend, who delivered to Estrada the proceeds of the cross-transaction, according to Jimenez. He said the proceeds amounted P189.7 million.

Estrada, however, pointed out that the operation of jai alai was aboveboard. "As such, it could not serve as basis for me to demand from Belle Corp., money or shares of stock."'

Documents submitted to the Ombudsman showed that the P189.7-million check was deposited into the controversial P3.2-billion "Jose Velarde" account with the Equitable PCI Bank.

Also yesterday, Jimenez submitted his second supplemental affidavit to corroborate his allegations in the seventh complaint for plunder lodged before the Ombudsman.

Jimenez earlier vowed to produce more damning evidence to substantiate his allegation that his former close friend, Estrada, extorted P346 million from him from December 1998 to August 2000.

"I hereby certify that the Equitable PCI Bank Check No. 0110-370237 in the sum of P126 million which I issued to cash and delivered to former President Estrada was an advance commission he expected to receive from the proceeds of the sale of Belle shares as discussed in my earlier affidavits," Jimenez said.

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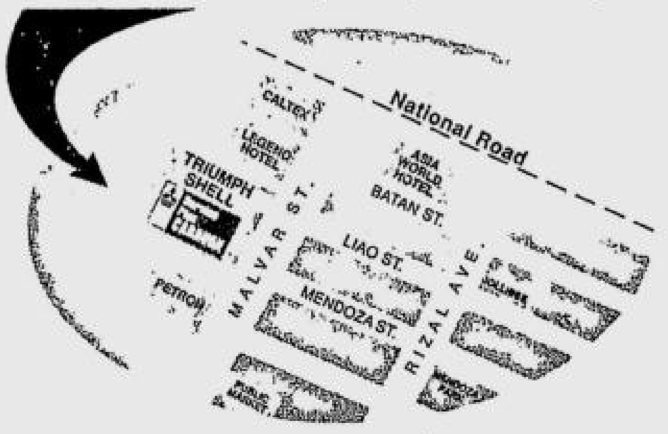

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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

REYES

Duty above personal ties with Erap

(From page A1)

while I met with the rest of my staff in the music room.

With their help, I assessed the situation on three levels: macro, strategic and tactical.

At the macro level, it was clear that the massive protest movement, fueled by widespread moral outrage, had taken on a life of its own. Its momentum was irreversible. On the other side of the fence, forces loyal to President Estrada conducted their own mobilization activities, creating a highly polarized, emotionally charged atmosphere.

As the tension mounted, the economy slid downward, dragging the peso and the stock market to new lows. Many schools had to suspend classes as students and teachers joined the protest. Even our officers and soldiers would admit that members of their families, too, marched to the rhythm of moral indignation.

On the strategic plane, I tried to visualize the future of the Armed Forces. Should I take a stand for or against the then duly constituted authority? To guide me in my deliberations, I reviewed Article 2, Section 3 of the Constitution which states: "Civilian authority, is at all times, supreme over the military. The Armed Forces is the protector of the people and the state."

That fundamental principle has guided me from Day One of my appointment as chief of staff.

Ironclad reality

In addition, I had to factor in another ironclad reality. I am convinced that in the Philippine setting, if it is a fight between people and government—where the people are fighting for legitimate governance—the people will win, no matter how much you prop up the government ,with propaganda, resources or armed forces.

Indeed, it became clear that the Estrada administration would fall. It was just a question of when and how.

We could opt to just sit it out, be reactive, and wait for the powder keg to explode. Taking this approach, history has shown, would invariably see the protesters eventually turning against the military and the police, no matter how noble-intentioned the law enforcers might be.

If we did not move quickly and decisively enough, there was a real danger that the AFP could wind up fighting the very people it is sworn to protect. We could not prop up a discredited regime indefinitely. Suppression, as we all know, would only beget more resistance.

On the other hand, we had the option to go against the then duly constituted authority while still being constitutional, on the principle of protecting the will and welfare of the people. That however would put our professional institution at risk of becoming an adventurous armed forces.

I was worried that, by so doing, I might unleash a vicious cycle of the AFP going against the government.

At the tactical level, we evaluated intelligence reports that armed leftist and rightist groups, including some disgruntled military officers, were planning to move separately against the government. While the AFP could easily neutralize these elements in any open confrontation, I was wary that scores of civilians could get hurt should hostilities break out.

Personal ties

Finally, I couldn't help but also consider, on an emotional plane, my personal relations with the President. I had to reckon with the fact that President Estrada was more than just my commander in chief. He was a friend who looked upon me with a great deal of trust and near-fatherly affection.

Only a few weeks before, he had stood as godfather at my son's wedding. And just a few days earlier, he surprised me by awarding me an extension of my term as AFP chief of staff. Beyond these personal considerations, it is to the credit of President Estrada that he looked after the welfare of the Filipino soldier.

Given all these factors tugging at my mind and heart, what should I do? What should the AFP do?

Clearly, I had to set aside personal considerations in favor of the higher national interest. As chief of staff, I carried the responsibility of keeping the AFP true to its mandate and of making sure that the institution remained intact and respected.

I could very well have decided not to do anything and still be probably right. But I had to ask myself: How would this end if we took a passive stance? Someone might just set off an explosion. People would die. The police would react. Demonstrators would be arrested.

If mayhem broke out, the AFP would be forced to step in and be perceived as fighting the people, instead of fighting for them. The situation would get worse and pretty soon AFP officers themselves would find it hard to remain non-partisan. Once that happened, it would be decades again before the AFP could recover.

The time had come to make a most difficult decision, and I could not allow personal considerations to prevail over my duty. Part of that duty was to make sure that the AFP would remain intact. It should act as one.

Painful decision

After a prolonged discussion with my staff, I finally realized that there remained only one constitutional option: **To withdraw support as an integral military organization.**

After getting the concurrence of everyone in the room of my official residence in Camp Aguinaldo, I told them in jest: "Gentlemen, I'm sure you know that we've just committed mutiny." And they all responded in unison: "Yes sir."

It was 10:30 a.m., Jan. 19.

The next step was to figure out how to execute it. I then called General Alvez and informed him of the decision and consulted him on the mechanics of announcing my decision.

At first we considered making the announcement through a press conference at the GHQ conference room in Camp Aguinaldo in keeping with our character as a military organization.

However, realizing that the process of pooling the media would just compromise our plan, we decided to follow General Alvez's suggestion to go straight to the Edsa Shrine to announce the AFP's collective withdrawal of support from the Estrada administration.

Alvez then made arrangements for a meeting with Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo at 2 p.m. at a safehouse at the Corinthian Gardens, Quezon City.

Battle staff

I asked General Dagudag to prepare his contingency plans in case of resistance to our action. That tactical plan detailed specific areas of responsibility, tandem movements and rendezvous points.

General Dagudag would command all ground forces, consisting of the special operations command and light armor units of the Army.

General Santiago and Brig. Gen. Efren Abu of the light armor brigade would man the battle staff.

Colonel Maclang would coordinate and monitor ground, air and naval operations at the joint operations center.

Col. Felipe Tabas of the AFP logistics center would provide logistical support.

Colonel Corpus would handle the civilian component.

Brig. Gen. Reynaldo Alcasid and Brig. Gen. Generoso Senga would take care of the media.

The perimeter security of the camp would be handled by Col. Angel Atutubo.

I was informed that the troops were ready but the plan was to be implemented only after the battle staff received word that I was on my way to Edsa.

In the meantime, I instructed everyone to return to his office and project a semblance of business as usual. I also left instructions to call for a Board of Generals (BOG) meeting at 1:30 p.m. in Camp Aguinaldo on the pretext of discussing pending promotions in the Army, Air Force and Navy—but actually to gather the major service commanders.

Mercado calls

While I was discussing the plan with my staff, I received a call from Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado asking for a meeting at 11:30 a.m. I was not sure what was going to be discussed and since I was already preparing to move, I asked that the meeting be moved to 1:30 p.m. He agreed.

I went to the office shortly before 11 a.m. and at around 11:05 a.m., I received a call from Malacañang directing me to report to the President immediately.

I thought the call unusual because first, the word "immediately" was emphasized; and second, the message was only coursed through my aide. Normally, the President would talk to me directly. So I thought that maybe our plan had been compromised already.

I therefore decided to accelerate the implementation of the plan. We had to leave and meet the Vice President immediately.

Safehouse

At about 11:15 p.m., I put on a jacket and rode a car that took me to a safehouse—the residence of a certain Mr. Eddie Jose at Corinthian Gardens.

Generals Alvez and Dagudag, Major Devesa, Capt. Reynante Rafael—my senior aide-de-camp, Capt. Ronald Santiago—the aide-on-duty, and my security officer, Capt. Sergio Generale, accompanied me.

An adjustment in the tactical plan had to be made. General Santiago assumed command of all ground forces from General Dagudag.

General Santiago ordered the closure of all gates at Camp Aguinaldo. *(To be continued tomorrow)*

Manero escapes in wife's car trunk

(From page A1)

help of his wife Julie Yee, who was on a conjugal visit, the officials said.

Prison personnel suspect that Manero hid in the trunk of his wife's car to pull off the escape.

Tomas Falgui, Manero's lawyer, said Manero, whose infamy sprung from witness reports that he had "cannibalized" parts of his victims' bodies, may have been "discouraged" by a delay in the expected dismissal of a case filed against him after the prosecution's chief witness retracted her testimony.

Falgui told the INQUIRER that Manero expected that the kidnapping and double murder case would be dismissed when it was last heard on March 16. Instead, the prosecution panel asked the court that the hearing be postponed to May 7.

Sarangani Gov. Priscilla Chiongbian, in a press statement released late last night, said she had ordered an immediate investigation.

The governor said provincial jail authorities reported that Yee entered the jail at 10 p.m. Wednesday for an overnight conjugal visit.

Yee was driving a Toyota Corolla car with Plate No. UFE 852. Yee's car left the provincial jail at 2:30 a.m.

Chiongbian also ordered the preventive suspension of prison guards Gabriel Axalan, Doroteo Pelino Jr. and Bernard Africa.

The provincial jail report said Axalan inspected the car and saw Yee driving it. Yee's identified driver was seated next to her.

But Axalan failed to check the baggage compartment.

Manero's escape was discovered only at 6 a.m. yesterday when Pelino was conducting a routine inspection.

Prison guard Africa was also on duty Wednesday night.

Falgui said he had no idea where Manero might be.

In December 1999, Manero was pardoned by then President Joseph Estrada.

News of his release in February last year sparked nationwide outrage, prompting Estrada to revoke the pardon.

It was at the height of the controversy that justice officials uncovered the kidnapping and double murder case pending in a Sarangani court.

Manero was rearrested in March 2000. The supposed main witness to the alleged crime, Johanna Mamalumpong, had claimed she saw her brothers Ali and Mambatawan abducted by Manero, his wife Leonarda Diesto, his elder brother Artemio and two other suspects in 1977.

Her brothers were later reported to have been butchered, and parts of their bodies cooked and eaten by Manero's gang.

But early this year, Johanna recanted her testimony.

In an affidavit, Johanna claimed she was just pressured into testifying that she personally witnessed the abduction of her two brothers by the group of Manero, and had agreed because she was mad at the accused.

Ferrari revs up traffic in Jakarta

(From page A1)

manager Diego Briani told Reuters at the opening in Jakarta. "...We are simply completing our distribution network," added Briani, who flew in from Italy for the opening.

This is just one of the wacky human interest stories compiled daily from all over the world by Reuters.

Each of the 10 Ferraris the shop has been allocated this year will fetch about 3.0 billion rupiah ($288,000). The showroom will also stock 10 Maseratis, which will sell for one billion rupiah.

Indonesia's average monthly income, according to the International Labor Organization, is about 250,000 rupiah or $25.

In Hanoi, an angry and exasperated wife has found a way to make money out of her husband's philandering. Failing to persuade her husband to give up a younger lover, the Vietnamese woman agreed to sell him to her for 7.5 million dong ($516), a newspaper reported.

The state-run Thanh Nien (Young People) newspaper said the younger woman paid the wife immediately and set up home with the husband. It said the 41-year-old wife was now living alone in the southern province of Dong Nai.

Marital bliss was even more short-lived for one Florida couple whose wedding day dispute over gifts landed the bride a brief stay in the local jail.

Police in the central Florida town of Stuart said that Kathryn Marie Patrick was released on $5,000 bail after allegedly pelting her new husband with wedding cake, punching him in the face and then kicking him as he lay on the ground.

The argument, apparently over their wedding gifts, erupted as the pair returned from their marriage ceremony on Sunday, police said. *Reuters*

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		5J - 341	Daily	1340	1430
KALIBO	MANILA	5J - 340	Daily	1030	1120
		5J - 354	Daily	1200	1250
		5J - 342	Daily	1510	1600
CEBU	KALIBO	5J - 232	T/F/Sun	1120	1200
KALIBO	CEBU	5J - 231	T/F/Sun	1250	1330
DAVAO	KALIBO	5J - 594/232*	T/F/Sun	0930	1200
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Hopes dim for youth . . .

(From page A1)

vote in the May 14 elections.

Gabriel Claudio, head of the Presidential Legislative Liaison Office, said the millions of young voters, who failed to register, could volunteer in poll groups, like the National Movement for Free Elections.

Justices of the Supreme Court will meet en banc on March 27 to resolve petitions asking the tribunal to force the Comelec to hold the special registration.

Akbayan-Youth, Bayan Muna-Youth and four other groups, along with 19-year-old Michelle Betito, filed separate petitions with the high tribunal.

Akbayan also considers slim the chances that the Supreme Court will approve its petition for the special registration.

"I'm not that optimistic," said Ruben Carranza, legal counsel of Akbayan.

"The Supreme Court might not want to be seen as making a judicial legislation or doing what Congress failed to do," Carranza said.

If the Supreme Court shoots down the petition, Carranza said Akbayan would mobilize some 2.5 million new voters and the youth sector to campaign against the candidates who worked against the holding of the special registration.

"*Mahihirapan talaga yun* (It will face rough sailing). What about the safeguards? How do you shorten the period?" Pimentel said of the special registration.

He was referring to the need to shorten the period for preparing for the special registration.

Pimentel said the high court could order the poll body to hold the special registration for new voters. If Comelec complied, the registration would go beyond the May 14 elections.

He said the Supreme Court "will have to consider that very seriously."

"You cannot just order something regardless of the consequences," Pimentel said.

Congress ended its three-day special session without approving the bill seeking a special registration after Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo admitted that his office would be "physically unable to cope" with the preparations.

Benipayo is not keen on conducting the special registration, citing legal and operational obstacles which he says bars the poll body from accommodating unregistered voters.

Benipayo cited a provision of Republic Act 8189, or the Voters Registration Act of 1996, which bars the Comelec from conducting a registration 120 days before Election Day.

Disgust

Candidates of the pro-administration People Power Coalition expressed disgust at Benipayo's "turnaround" on the special voter's registration that led to the scrapping of a Malacañang-certified measure in Congress.

PPC candidate Roberto "Obet" Pagdanganan even expressed "suspicion" that threats from certain "opposition senators" could have led to Benipayo's flip-flopping on the proposal to allow the special registration of some 4 million voters.

In his first appearance at the Senate, Benipayo assured the senators that the special registration could be done in time for the May 14 elections. But he changed his tune the next day.

Rep. Wigberto Tañada, another PPC candidate, also expressed surprise at Benipayo's turnaround.

"I'm at a loss at that turnaround," Tañada said, adding that the opposition had exerted efforts to block the registration especially of the youth. Tañada said Benipayo should be grilled before the Commission on Appointments.

PPC candidate Rep. Joker Arroyo said Benipayo's position was unfair. "It's bad that the Comelec chair would spoil the desire of the youth to register. He should not overlook the reality that the youth were part of the setting up of this government," Arroyo said.

Former Speaker Manuel Villar, another PPC candidate, said he was saddened by Benipayo's position.

"I don't understand why Benipayo did that. Maybe he really did not want the youth to register," Villar said.

Sen. Juan Flavier, PPC candidate, was more understanding of Benipayo's position.

"He said the time was not enough and the timing was bad because the adjudication falls on the Holy Week. It may not be fair but you cannot insist on a bill, which the implementors say cannot be done. There was no sense in approving the bill," Flavier said.

Flavier said the alternative, postponing the May 14 elections, was "very unacceptable."

Picket

The youth are not as understanding as Flavier.

Emman Hizon, spokesperson of Akbayan-Youth, said Benipayo had insisted that Congress amend a law prohibiting registration 120 days before the May 14 elections.

"When it began to appear that the law would be changed, Benipayo backtracked and said that an amendment would not make a difference," Hizon said at a picket outside the Comelec offices. "We are disappointed."

Jose Orlando Garcia, spokesperson of Bayan Muna Youth-Baguio Benguet chapter, said the government had deprived the 18-year-olds living in remote villages the chance to exercise their democratic right.

Jose Licauen, a member of Progressive Igorots for Social Action, said the youth vote should be the priority of the government during elections.

Most out-of-school youth in the hinterlands have no time to go to municipal centers to register because of their work in the farms, according to Licauen.

Comelec offices in municipal centers are four- to six-hour walk away from farming villages.

In Lucena City, Fr. Raul Enriquez, vice chair of Gomburza, an association of priests and pastors, chided the Macapagal administration for not having a strong political will in pushing for the registration.

"She should have exerted more effort in advising her Comelec commissioner about the wisdom of having a new registration. But it seems that her efforts were not enough," he said.

The registration campaign for young voters would have cost only about P100 million, according to Monsod.

"I am sorry that those new voters cannot vote but this was an accumulation of errors and lack of foresight especially by the Comelec," he said. *With reports from Armand N. Nocum in Manila; Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau ; Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Roger V. Paller, Nestor P. Burgos Jr. and Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau; and Allan A. Nawal and Jowel F. Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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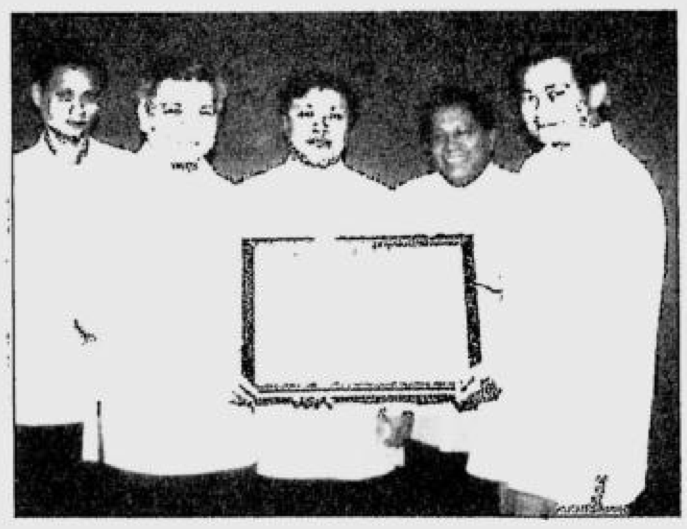

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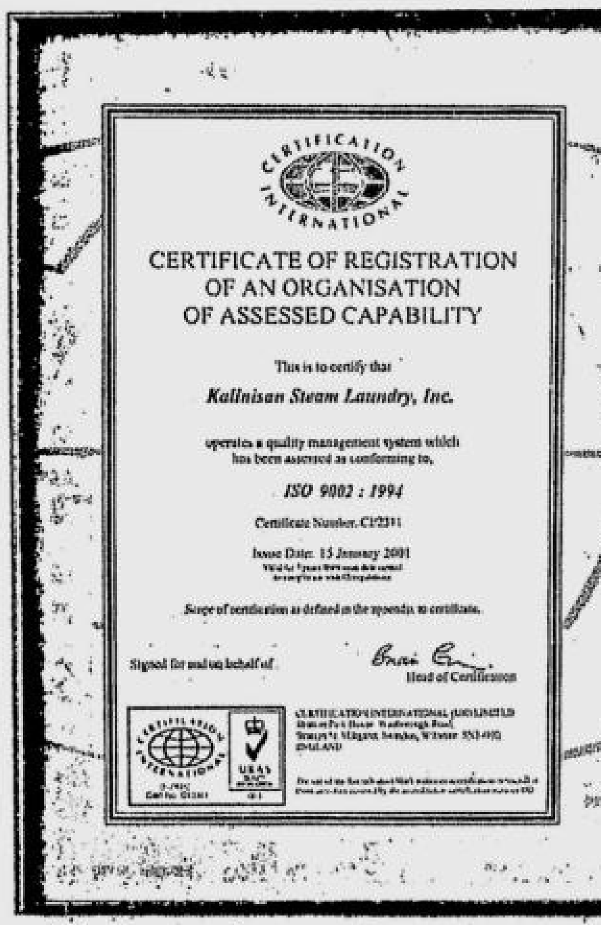

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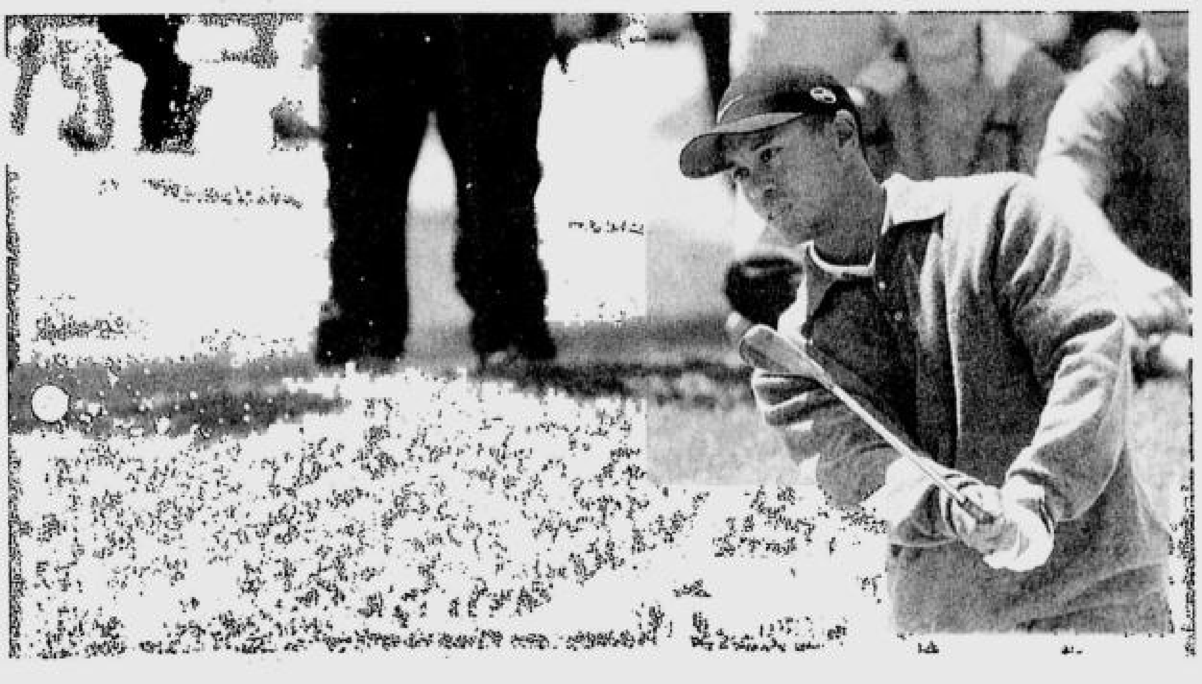


AP

TIGER Woods (top) exhibits serious play during practice round yesterday at Ponte Vedra's Sawgrass in Florida for the Players Championship, which is generally considered as golf's fifth major. Woods is fresh from his Bay Hill victory last Sunday that broke a five-leg losing skein on the PGA Tour. At right is Rick Gibson, leader at Sherwood Hills.

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Florida—Tiger Woods, beware.

If winning the Bay Hill Invitational last week in dramatic and haphazard fashion means Woods is on a roll, it might not be a bad idea to take this week off.

Sure. The Players Championship is one of the most prestigious tournaments in golf—most players call it a fifth major. It has the strongest and deepest field, its $6 million purse is the richest in the world, and the Stadium Course on the TPC at Sawgrass is brutal.

But from the time it was created in 1974, no one has won The Players Championship and the Masters in the same year.

"That's got to change sooner or later," said Nick Price, who missed the cut at Augusta National in 1993 the year after winning The Players Championship.

Perhaps this might be the year.

Woods arrived Wednesday afternoon, later than he has for any other tournament this year. He teed off with Mark O'Meara and David Duval, who quit after four holes with a sore right wrist, for his only practice round.

What Woods found was unlike anything he has seen this year—ankle-deep rough that seemed even thicker because of four inches of rain earlier in the week, tight fairways, greens that were severely undulated and a cold wind with gusts up to 40 kph (25 mph).

The Players Championship is more than just a good test. It figures to be a great tuneup for the Masters because of what is required—excellent shotmaking, supreme putting and the ability to handle pressure down the stretch.

"If you win here, you know your game is strong," Greg Norman said. "And you know it's going to be strong in two weeks."

The Players is the only prestigious tournament missing from Woods' resume.

Along with the career Grand Slam, he also has won the Tour Championship, Pebble Beach and the tournaments of Jack Nicklaus (Memorial), Arnold Palmer (Bay Hill) and Byron Nelson (Nelson Classic).

"This is one of the best fields in golf that is assembled throughout the year, and it's played on a very demanding golf course," Woods said. "That's a nice combination to have. And to finish on top that week would be very satisfying."

The fact no one has won the Players and the Masters in the same year can be attributed to the fact that it's tough to win anywhere, let alone two big tournaments in three weeks, especially when the second tournament is a major.

A closer look at recent history shows that a good week at Sawgrass generally leads to a good week at Augusta. How Woods fares when The Players Championship starts Thursday might be a good indication of how well he is playing.

A year ago, Hal Sutton beat Woods by one stroke to win The Players Championship, missing only one fairway and one green in a final round that required two days to complete. He took that confidence to Augusta, where Sutton had his best Masters ever —a tie for 10th, after missing nine cuts in a row.

Gibson leads with 68

By Jong Arcano

CANADIAN expatriate Rick Gibson tamed a monster with a new distance ball and a driver that hardly missed its targets yesterday, striding home with a four-under-par 68 to emerge the solo first round leader in the P700,000 Ericsson Smart Zed Sherwood Classic in Trece Martirez, Cavite.

Gibson didn't flinch with a three-putt bogey in the second hole, splitting every fairway and attacking the deepest of pin placements en route to five birdies.

Playing alongside the highly rated Cassius Casas, the 39-year-old Gibson showed who the real boss is with a back-nine 32 carved in blazing sunshine.

Robert Pactolerin, down in second place behind Gibson, never really got to smile with his 70. He was beating up the dreaded Sherwood course with four birdies on the first five holes until the monster clawed back by giving him a bogey on the seventh and a wet double bogey on the ninth.

Joselito Rempojo and Ruben Sasutil were the only other players to break par with their 71s as the heavyweights of this event presented by College Assurance Plan, La Paz Holdings, Metrorail and Fil Estate all played it safe.

Casas scored a 72 and so did Danny Zarate and Rodrigo Cuello, who are both making their first appearance on the Tour after their Asian Tour commitments. They were joined by Carito Villaroman, Mars Pucay, Dan Cruz and Rey Alit.

Delasin plays today; Rosales out

LPGA Rookie of the Year Dorothy Joy Delasin joins the big names in the Nabisco Championships, the first major of the season, starting Thursday (Friday in Manila) at the Mission Hills Country club in Rancho Mirage, California.

Delasin, fresh from a fifth place finish in the Standard Register Ping tournament in Phoenix, Arizona, that sent her to the Top 30 of the money list, will be making her debut in the star-studded $1-million championship.

Jennifer Rosales, however, is not in the field. Though Rosales is currently ranked higher than Delasin in the current standings, she did not gain enough points to get one of the slots.

Both did not play in the Nabisco during their rookie season last year.

Annika Sorenstam, Karrie Webb and Se Ri Pak are in the dream flight of the first round.

Sorenstam won the Standard Register Ping last week in record-breaking fashion, becoming the first woman to score a 59 in one round and also setting new 36-, 54- and 72-marks.

Jong Arcano

Que 4 up at Valley

ANGELO Que struggled with a five-over-par 77 yesterday but kept a four-stroke lead in the men's championship division even as Heidi Chua inched ahead in the ladies class after three rounds of the Titleist-Footjoy National Amateur Circuit at Valley.

Que saw his overnight lead of seven strokes reduced to four as Boyet Zaragosa carded one of three 74s which proved to be the best score for the day and gave the Canlubang bet a shot at the three-day leader in today's final round.

Que, preparing for his defense of the Philippine amateur crown next month, was 221 while Zaragosa stood at 225, Juvic Pagunsan was eight strokes behind at 229 after a 75.

Chua, fresh from retaining her Southern Ladies crown, grabbed the lead from Ruby Walker with an 80 while Tony Olives (Group I), Gerard Cadiz (Group IV) and Hedy See (76) moved ahead in their respective divisions of the tourney backed by Titleist, Footjoy, Nextel, Chris T Sports and GG&A Club Shares.

For Arda, the flesh was just too weak

By Jong Arcano

THE SPIRIT was willing but the flesh was just too weak.

Bantam Ben Arda's scorecard may have been scattered with big numbers yesterday but it hardly spoiled the much-awaited return of one of the greatest Filipino players of all time to the local professional circuit yesterday via the Ericsson-Smart Zed Sherwood Hills Classic.

There were a total of 122 strokes on his scorecard. He had 62 at the front nine and 60 at the back. But Arda, in his 70s now, had other things in mind.

"My only goal was to finish my round," said Arda, whose exploits abroad in the 1970s helped trigger a national passion for golf. "I felt honored with the invitation so I was bent on finishing "

It was his first 18-hole round since being forced into an abrupt retirement from competitive golf by a mild stroke 10 years ago after he completed his last tour of duty in Japan where he built a reputation as a giant-killer.

Picking up from the Casey Martin case of the PGA Tour, organizers gave Arda a concession to ride a cart all throughout his round. It afforded Arda an extra lift to shoot for birdies and pars that came so easy once upon a time

Arda, however, never got any birdie or par. The best he could was shoot two bogeys on the first and 18th holes that sandwiched a myriad of 8s and 9s.

He could only watch in awe as Rodrigo Cuello relentlessly bashed the dedimpled ball to the endpoints of the long fairways. But Cuello, who shot 72 to be among the frontrunners, was wise enough to accept that the old man had his time.

When asked if Cuello can beat him in his prime, Arda flashed a toothy smile.

Arda promised to show up again in today's second round. Just his way of showing that the grand old man of Philippine golf is back.

Mapua NCAA king

MAPUA Institute of Technology track and field team won this year's NCAA title, garnering six golds and six silvers. The gold medals of Mapua were from the 4x100 relay, 4x400 relay, 400 meter run, triple jump, 800 meter run and 5000 meter run, while the silvers were from the 100 meter dash, 200 meter dash, 1500 meter run, 110 hurdles, 400 hurdles and the long jump.

POC not opposing PSC move on Seaba

By June Navarro

THE PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee yesterday gave its blessing to the staging of the Southeast Asian Basketball Association men's championship spearheaded by Quintellano "Tiny" Literal's group a day after the Philippine Sports Commission promised to throw its support behind the cagefest.

Citing national interest as the primary reason, POC legal counsel Victor Africa said the Olympic body will not oppose any move the PSC will make with respect to the Seaba hosting.

"Though the POC has no compulsion in involving itself in the Seaba, the POC will not, in any way, hinder the PSC from helping the organizers push through with the tournament," said Africa, spokesperson of the POC on Basketball Association of the Philippines-related matters

PSC chair Carlos Tuason promised to lend a hand to the Seaba organizers regardless of personalities involved. He said closing the door on its hosting will only put the country in a humiliating position among nations in the region.

"I don't care whoever runs its preparation, the important thing is to push through with the event and put the BAP leadership crisis aside," said Tuason.

He said requests for funding should be channeled from the Seaba organizing committee to the PSC

MBA bigwigs Santi Araneta and Ramon Tuason left the supervision of their players and coaches in the national team under the care of the PSC on Wednesday.

Hell-bent on hosting the tournament, Literal reiterated the Seaba will push through with or without PSC funding but otherwise welcomed the development.

He said he would talk to Tuason about it and temporarily freeze his group's cause in the BAP.

Africa said Wednesday the POC is adopting a hands-off policy on the Seaba, explaining the association is private in nature and not sanctioned by the POC, much less the International Olympic Committee.

Meanwhile, PSC Senior Executive Assitant Horacio Miranda is under fire after an estimated 200 employees signed a manifesto seeking for his removal from office.

Tuason said an investigation is in the works despite calls from some sectors in the PSC batting for Miranda's retention.

Pitino accepts Louisville post

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky — Rick Pitino became the University of Louisville's basketball coach, returning to the state where he won a national championship in 1996.

Pitino and his family arrived to enthusiastic cheers Wednesday at an evening news conference and pep rally to introduce him as coach.

"Now it's my time to lead the Cardinals back to prominence," Pitino said.

Pitino, who won the national title as coach of the Kentucky Wildcats, resigned as coach and president of the Boston Celtics in January after 3 1/2 disappointing seasons.

His hiring at Louisville follows a bold, aggressive courtship by athletic director Tom Jurich, who acted as a one-man search committee. Jurich said two weeks ago that Pitino was his only candidate for the job. **AP**

NBA RESULTS

San Antonio 97, Boston 77; Indiana 96, Orlando 95; Charlotte 111, Toronto 95; Miami 109, Chicago 81; Minnesota 109, Dallas 97; Milwaukee 107, L.A. Lakers 100; Washington 99, Golden State 94. **AP**

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: 2001 NCAA Men's Tournament, East Regional Semifinal at 8 a.m. and 3 p.m., West Regional Semifinal at 5 p.m. and tomorrow at 5:30 a.m. on Star Sports

NBA – Portland Trailblazers vs Utah Jazz at 10 a.m. (r – 9 p.m.) on Star Sports

NBA Inside Stuff at 8:30 p.m. on Star Sports

GOLF: PGA Bay Hill Invitational, Highlights at 7 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

Inside the PGA Tour at 12:30 p.m. (r – 8 p.m.) on Star Sports

PGA - The Players Championship, First Round at 11:30 p.m. on Star Sports

LPGA Standard Register Ping, Final Round at 8 p.m. on ESPN

SUNDAY HIT PARADE

De La Hoya will fight again

LAS VEGAS—Oscar De La Hoya, a Grammy nominee, showed up at the Hollywood Theater in the MGM Grand on Wednesday, not to sing but to talk about resuming his hit parade.

The occasion was the final news conference for De La Hoya's 12-round welterweight fight against Arturo Gatti on Saturday night (Sunday in Manila).

It will be De La Hoya's first fight since losing the WBC welterweight title on a split decision to Shane Mosley last June 17 at Los Angeles.

In the interval, De La Hoya recorded "Oscar De La Hoya," nominated for a Grammy as best Latin Pop Album of 2000.

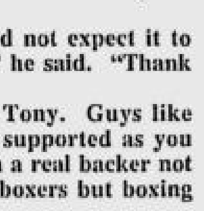
It also will be De La Hoya's first fight with a new promoter, Jerry Perenchio, and his first with a new trainer, Floyd Mayweather Sr., father of the WBC super featherweight champion.

"It's great to be back," said the 28-year-old De La Hoya, who won an Olympic gold medal and world championships in three weight classes. "I feel very happy. Finally, after so many years, we're doing things right." *AP*

DE LA HOYA

Of Gabriele, Tony and Schu

SPECTATOR



Al S. Mendoza

A DEAR cousin of sportscaster Hermie Rivera (Trinidad "Adad" Ungson of Alaminos, Pangasinan, and Baguio City) died in Santa Clara, California last weekend. Titus, Hermie's favorite niece, wants us to pray for the eternal repose of Adad's soul.

■

I got messages from two gentlemen from Cebu this week that warmed my heart no end. One came from Gabriele Boschi of the world-famed Rudy Project golf sunglasses and the other from Antonio L. "Tony" Aldeguer of ALA Boxing Club.

"Howdy?" said Gabriele, calling from his cell phone. "Hope you are fine as usual."

Gabriele, one of the nicest Italians around, called to say he was formalizing Rudy Project's entry into the 2001 Philippine Open.

"Rudy Project is in," he said. "The Philippine Open is worth supporting."

At the office, I saw Tony's note faxed from Cebu.

"We must admit that we were surprised to read this morning the publication of our press release in your newspaper," said Tony. "Warm regards."

Tony sent the release the day before.

"We really did not expect it to come out today," he said. "Thank you."

All the time, Tony. Guys like you ought to be supported as you have always been a real backer not only of aspiring boxers but boxing as well.

May your tribe increase, buddy.

■

No doubt reigning world champion Michael Schumacher is an astute Formula One driver. The German won the Malaysian Grand Prix at Kuala Lumpur's spanking Sepang International Circuit in a masterful fashion, his second-in-a-row after topping the Melbourne leg in Australia two weeks ago.

The victory made him the first F1 driver to win six straight Grand Prix races since Alberto Ascari of Italy did it in the 1952-53 F1 season.

Schu is a great racer in the rain. However, when the rains fell early in the 56-lap race, the defending champion spun once together with his Ferrari teammate Rubens Barrichello of Brazil.

But the good seemed to always have the luck, too.

Schu and Rubens missed colliding by inches when they spun out of the track. When he rejoined the race, Schu found himself in 11th place and Rubens 12th, with Jarno Trulli of Jordan Honda zooming ahead of the 22-car pack after two laps.

Because of the wet track, the safety car had to enter and towed the field for eight laps. This was a big break for Schu, who quickly re-positioned himself for an easy chase of the leaders once the race was restored to normalcy.

Thus, when the yellow flag was discarded and the safety car was driven out of the track, the 11th-placed Schu began his move. He overtook everybody one by one as his superbly-conditioned Ferrari made mincemeat of the opposition.

It was vintage Schu. The manner with which Schu passed the 10 cars was like poetry in motion.

David Coulthard in a McLaren Mercedes Benz and Heinz-Harald Frentzen in a Jordan Honda, who were running 1-2 when the safety car entered, yielded the lead to Schu as though they were bereft of resistance, if not skill.

But if it's any consolation for me, I had wagered a bet on Frentzen, who finished fifth in Melbourne, to emerge the best among the four Honda riders (Trulli, Jacques Villeuneve and Olivier Panis). I won as Frentzen finished fourth behind Schumacher, Barrichello and Coulthard.

Schumacher?

He became my idol the first time I saw him race live in the 1999 Malaysian Grand Prix.

A cut above the rest.

Victoria Hobie winner

A TEAM from Down Under sailed to victory in the recent 2nd Orient Freight Philippine Hobie Challenge Island and Inshore Regattas which ended at Maricaban Bay, Busuanga, Palawan.

Team Victoria, with Andrew Keag and Naomi Angwin, beat 11 other Hobie's catamarans in gruelling wind and water conditions. The race started at the Maya Maya Yacht Club in Batangas for the March 10 race to Golo Island, Lubang.

BlueFin, bannered by Hong Kong Hobie Fleet Commodore Tong Shing and Frenchwoman Carina Croly, settled for second spot, followed by the Australian-Filipina tandem of Tony Robinson and Gia Veloso on Team Whipped.

Rounding up the top five are Marianas Island (Tony Stearns and Janet McCullough) and the all-Filipino team of Taal Lake YC manned by Noel Lim and Mintoy Lopez/Nestor Soriano.

The competitors negotiated a total of 164 nautical miles.

Mulawin derby champ

MULAWIN Argem Coliseum III, fielding fast and ferocious fighting cocks of Rudy Albano, emerged solo champion late Wednesday night by scoring six sizzling points in the well-attended NCA 7-Cock Derby at the Araneta Coliseum.

Another Albano entry, Mulawin Argem Coliseum II, wound up second, posting 5-1/2 points and sharing runnerup honors with Eric and Butsoy of Ramon Mansenares. Six other entries finished joint third with five points each in this tough derby held under the aegis of the National Cockers Association.

The five-pointers were Thunderbird-Firefly 8 of the Firefly Group, Winning Time-DVH of well-known lawyer Rudy Salud, Capitan III of upcoming Alan Tan and Boy Primallon, Momentun of Boy Velez and Louie Cua, Mountaneer of Gov. Raul Molintas and BL BG Showdown-JPC of Danny Ty, P. Chua and Boy G.

Meanwhile, the country's leading cocker-breeders are girding for battle in the next NCA 7-Cock Derby set for March 26-28, also at the Big Dome. This blue-ribbon affair will be hosted by Peping Cojuangco, Esting Teopaco and Eddie and Bomboy Araneta.

Taiwan batters blast RP, 16-2

TAIPEI—Host Taiwan bucked the Philippines' tough pitching in the first three innings before unleashing its might to pull off a 16-2 victory for its second victory Tuesday in the 21st Baseball Federation of Asia (BFA)-Asian Championship at the Shinchuan Stadium here. The Filipinos dropped their first game to Japan, 1-8, in Monday's opener.

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▪ **EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA**, Assistant Editor

Shanghai to host ABC tourney

THE ASIAN Basketball Confederation yesterday announced the selection of Shanghai, China's commercial capital, as the host city for the 21st Asian Basketball Championship for Men slated from July 20-28. "The CBA is honored that this great event has been awarded to China," said Xin Lan Cheng, executive vice president of the Chinese Basketball Association.

Shell guns for solo lead vs Pop

HULKING Ali Peek of Alaska slips past Tanduay's Bonel Balingit (left) and Dindo Pumaren. Tanduay won, 90-84. ERNIE SARMIENTO

PBA STANDINGS

	W	L
Shell	7	3
SMB	7	3
Red Bull	6	4
Pop Cola	5	4
Mobiline	5	5
Ginebra	5	5
Alaska	5	6
Purefoods	5	6
Tanduay	4	7
Sta. Lucia	2	8

GAMES TODAY:
(Araneta Coliseum)
5:15 p.m.—Ginebra vs Mobiline
7:30 p.m.—Pop Cola vs Shell

By Marc Anthony Reyes

WILL Ron Jacobs' presence make any difference for Barangay Ginebra tonight?

That's the question begging to be answered when the Gins take on rampaging Mobiline in the PBA All-Filipino Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

That game will serve as curtain-raiser to Shell Velocity's quest to take the solo leadership against Pop Cola in the 7:30 p.m. match.

Jacobs broke his month-long hiatus from overseeing on-court operations for Ginebra and San Miguel Beer when he appeared Wednesday night at Philsports with SMB coach Jong Uichico and Ginebra coach Allan Caidic in tow.

The American coach didn't make any excuse for his absence even as Uichico and Caidic stressed that Jacobs was around all this time but just chose not to be in the games.

At any rate, the Gin Kings did well while Jacobs was gone, holding post in the middle rung of the standings with a 5-5 record.

Ironically, upon Jacobs' arrival, the Gins experienced a dip after losing to Pop Cola and Shell Velocity. He is expected to be on the bench tonight, according to Viva Vintage official Ronnie Nathanielz.

Just the same, the Phone Pals will be riding on the crest of their three-game winning run that helped them stay in contention despite a vicious losing spell at the start of the conference.

Shell Velocity and Pop Cola will also be staking their similar two-game streak in the second game.

A win won't only give the Turbochargers the solo top spot, but it will also put the franchise within a win closer to the twice-to-beat stage in the semifinals.

Of the two, however, the Panthers carry an edge in terms of firepower considering that all their gunners are in good shape unlike that of the Turbochargers.

Shark-Welcoat tiff gets PBL going tomorrow

By Dennis U. Eroa

SATURDAY SCHEDULE:
2 p.m.—Opening ceremonies
4 p.m.—Welcoat vs Shark

FORGET about the appetizers, the main course will be served immediately in tomorrow's opener of the PBL Chairman's Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

Defending champion Welcoat renews its rivalry with Shark Energy Drink in the lone game at 4 p.m.

Shark cut short Welcoat's domination with a memorable triumph in the Challenge Cup title series but just like in their past encounters, the odds continue to tilt in favor of the Paintmasters.

Reason? The Power Boosters were able to complete its lineup only this week. MVP Roger Yap, Egay Echavez and Erwin Velez will no longer don Shark's blue jerseys after finding greener pastures.

The new recruits are ex-Laguna Laker and Hapee standout Rollie Basilides, PSBA marvel MC Caceres and University of Baguio pointguard Jun Balares.

"We're the underdogs," said Shark assistant coach Dayong Mendoza."Our new recruits don't have enough practice to jell with the system."

The Paintmasters brought in ex-Chowking gunner Brixter Encarnacion and two up and coming players from the UAAP—Adamson's Melvin Mamaclay and FEU's Michael Tolentino.

Except for slasher Anton Villoria and Francis Zamora, the core of coach Junel Baculi's previous championship team remains intact.

Villoria is now toiling with Red Bull, while the 6-foot-5 Zamora, a rebound and defensive specialist, is going to play a key role in the title drive of Montaña Jewels.

Amateur basketball player of the year Ren Ren Ritualo, Jojo Manalo, Yancy de Ocampo, Derick Canlas, Eugene Tan and Allen Patrimonio are still around.

Shark, however, has retained its lust for blood. Chester Tolomia, Gilbert Malabanan, Michael Robinson, Warren Ybañez, Rysal Castro and Gerard Ortega continue to show top form even in practices.

The opening ceremonies start at 2 p.m.

Flip-flopping Freddie

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THE MAN in the street is aghast, shaking his head in utter disbelief over the sudden reversal of position taken by Freddie Jalasco of the trouble-ridden Basketball Association of the Philippines.

Recall that last Friday Jalasco said he was taking the "supreme sacrifice" by stepping down as president of the BAP (in favor of Tiny Literal) for the good of basketball. But just as quickly, on Monday to be exact, Jalasco made an unexpected turnaround, stressing he was only taking a leave of absence and not resigning. He defended his urong-sulong stance by saying that he was prevailed upon by members of the BAP executive committee composed of the Philippine Basketball Association, the Philippine Basketball League and the Metropolitan Basketball Association from tendering his resignation. So what?

No wonder Philippine amateur basketball did not make any headway in the years that Jalasco was in control of the BAP: he was lacking in direction. Besides, Jalasco's flip-flopping only muddled an already "very serious situation," leading many to ask: Could he be trusted to honor his word? Remember he said this: "I'm always willing to step down just to ensure harmony will prevail in local basketball."

Harmony? Yes, why not? But first Jalasco must show sincerity by stepping down and giving the new, majority leadership the chance to serve. This action will surely plug the hole and prevent the BAP form sinking because the association is in a tawdry mess. It is a house divided and the troublesome situation will only get worse if nobody tries to fix it.

The power struggle in the basketball association began last December when Jalasco lost to Tiny Literal, an Ateneo Hall of Famer and former national player, in a snap election conducted by the BAP national board. Later on, despite Jalasco's unyielding stand and the backing of the Philippine Olympic Committee, the BAP board reaffirmed Literal's election in San Pablo City in February. This annual meeting was attended by the association's 24 of the 25 regional directors, sports officials such as former MBA chair Bert Lina and athletics chieftain Go Teng Kok, 15 BAP commissioners, coaches and national players. Also present (as an observer) was ABC (Asian Basketball Confederation) president Carl Ching, who later inducted into office the newly elected officials.

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Race 2—1. Be Quiet 2. Golden Eagle 3. Hyperbid
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Race 4—1. That's My Tiger 2. Nuts Again 3. Golden Figure 4. Hole In One 5. Mr. Martial
Race 5—1. Filthy Rich 2. My Prayer 3. Bethsie 4. Hunting Treasure
Race 6—1. Jazz Queen 2. Kitty Bang Bang/ Exceptional Charm 3. Gold and Dollar 4. Parola Sunrise 5. Golden State
Race 7—1. Ocean Friend 2. True to Life 3. Jeanne D Arc 4. Impeccable 5. Made to Order
Race 8—1. Diligence 2. Legitimo 3. Monty's Angel 4. My Cute Nicki 5. El Bulldog
Race 9—1. Be Ready 2. Top Dancer 3. Baptism of Fire 4. Something Different 5. Fortune Maker

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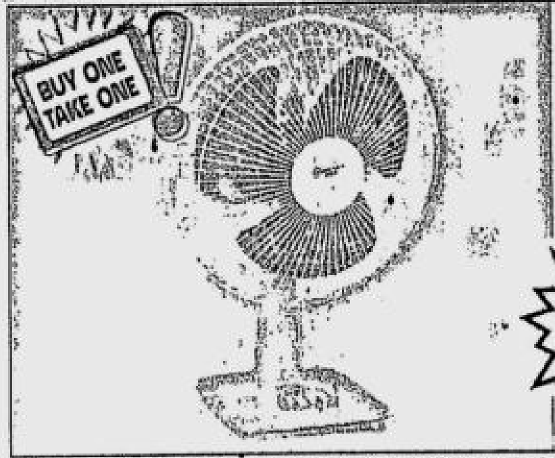
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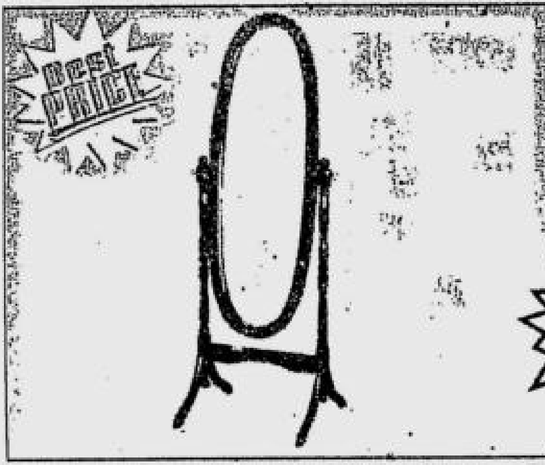

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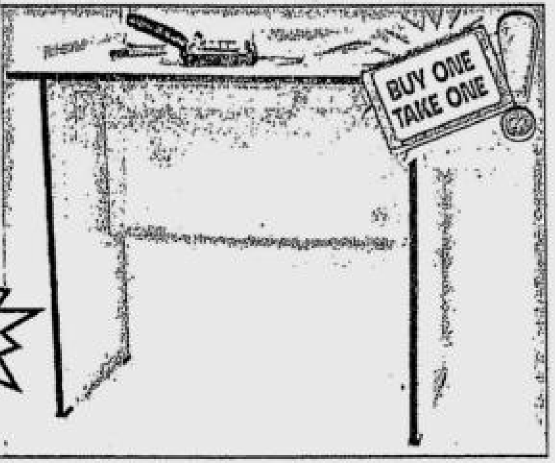
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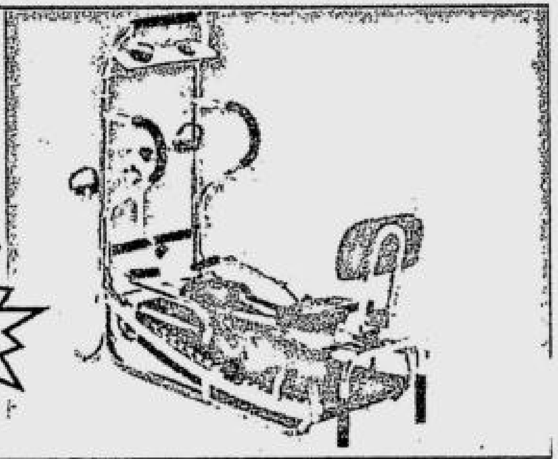

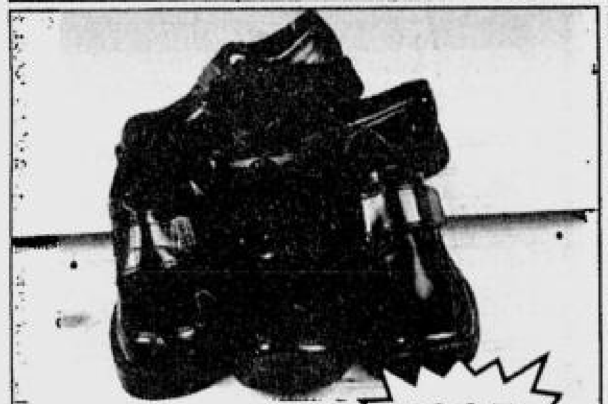

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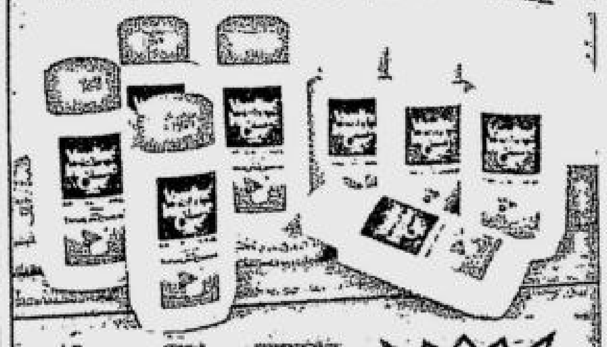

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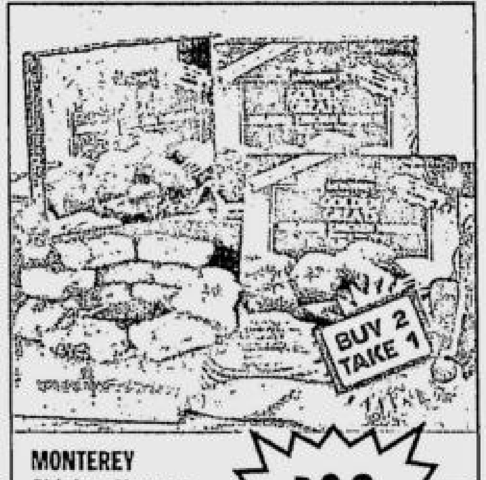

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Madraso gets life for drugs

Trader was subject of word war between Lastimoso and Lacson

By Alcuin Papa

BUSINESSMAN and alleged drug lord Rafael Madraso managed to escape the death chamber after a Parañaque judge on Wednesday sentenced him to life imprisonment in connection with his 1999 arrest for drug dealing.

Judge Zosimo Escano said the prosecution did not show any mitigating or aggravating circumstance that could have merited a death sentence. Because of this, Madraso was instead given the lowest sentence of life imprisonment.

Escano also said Madraso did not provide a convincing alibi.

MADRASO/ A26

Cop who ordered boys to snatch cellular phone nabbed, charged

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE POLICEMAN who allegedly ordered a group of young men to snatch a cellular phone in Quezon City was arrested and charged yesterday, following the death of two of the snatchers who were shot by another policeman.

COP WHO/ A26

▨ Bare Eye: Dirty politics is the name of the game A26
▨ 'Boy Tisoy' hunted; reward raised to P1 million A27

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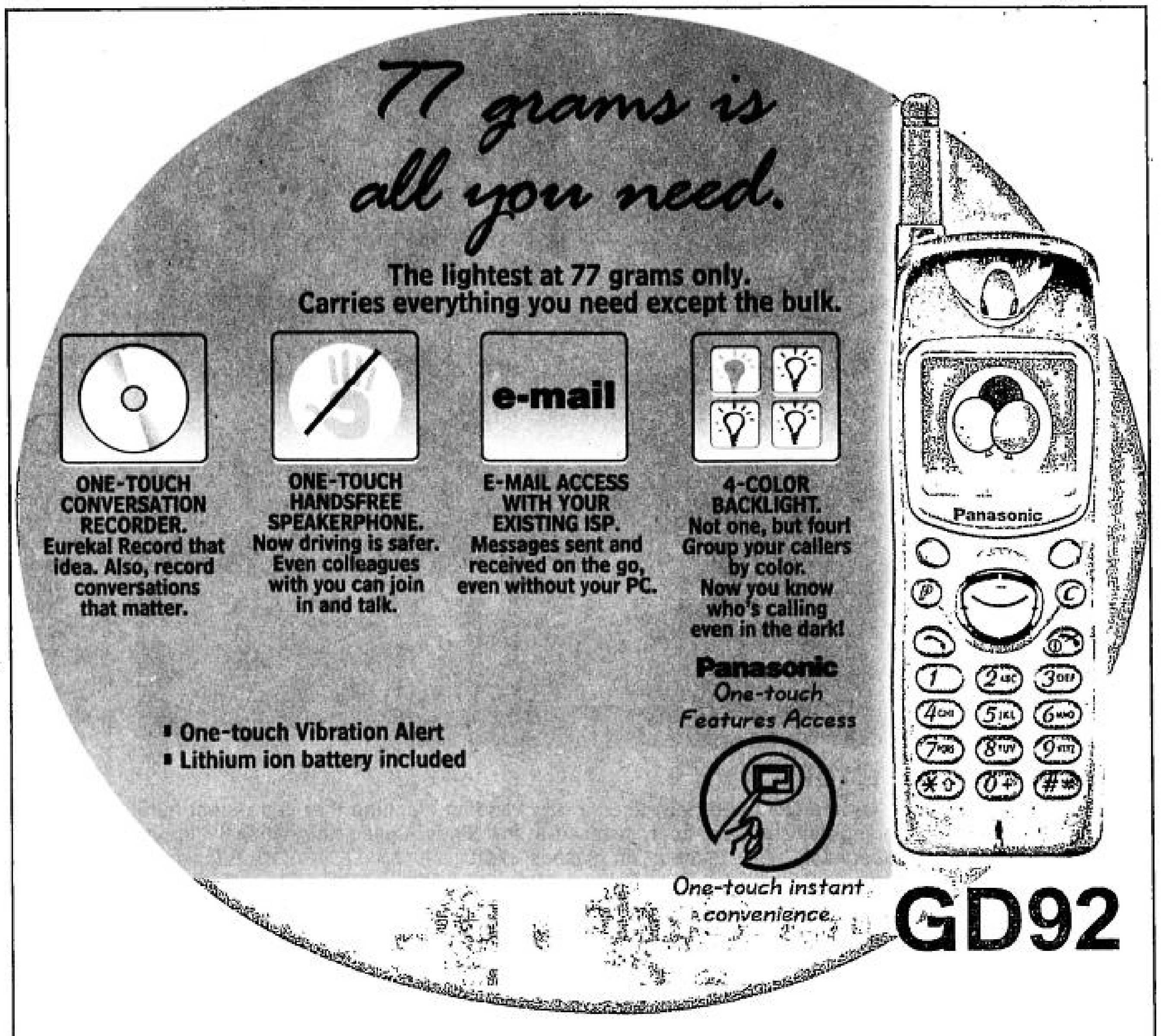
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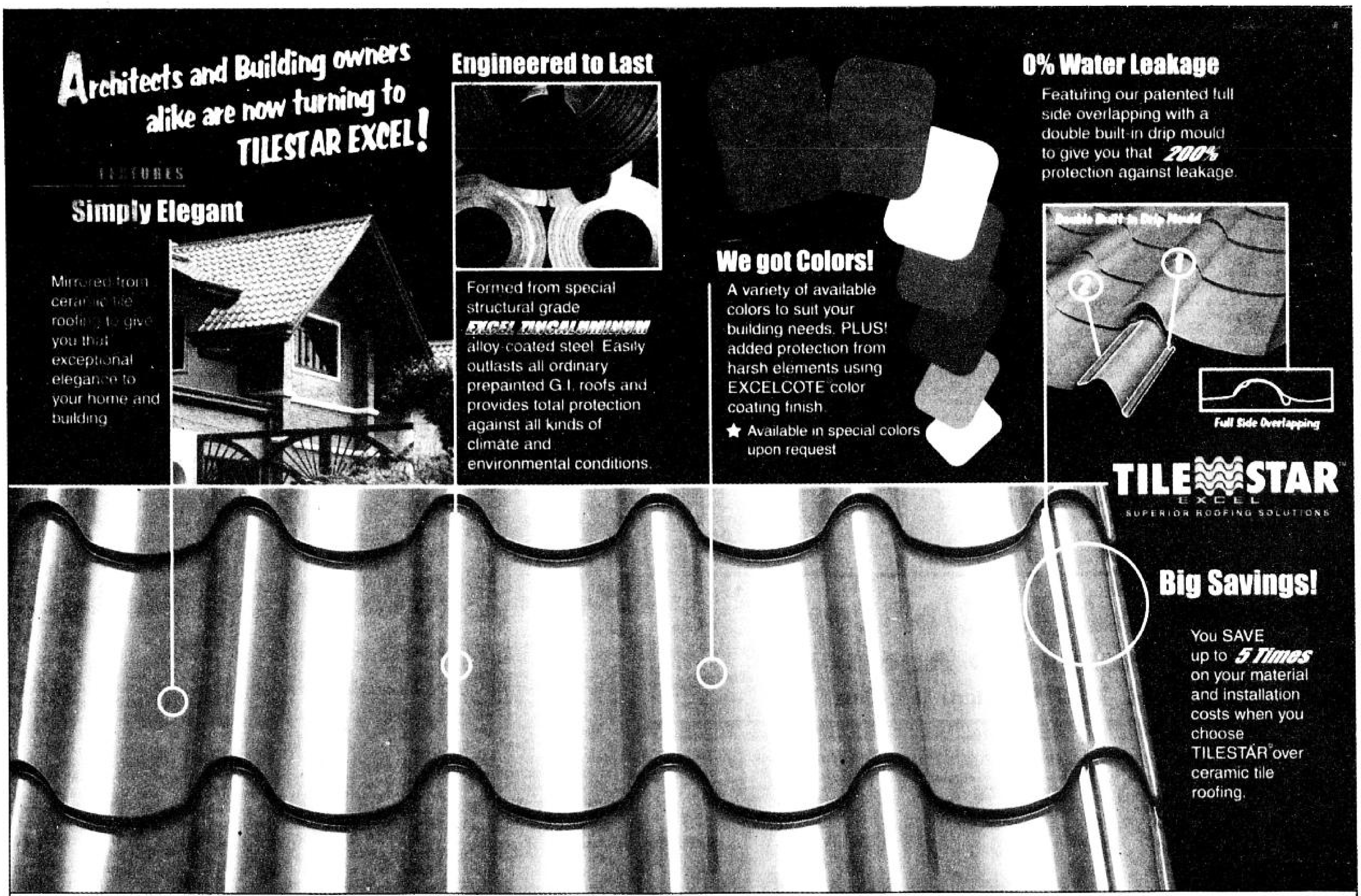
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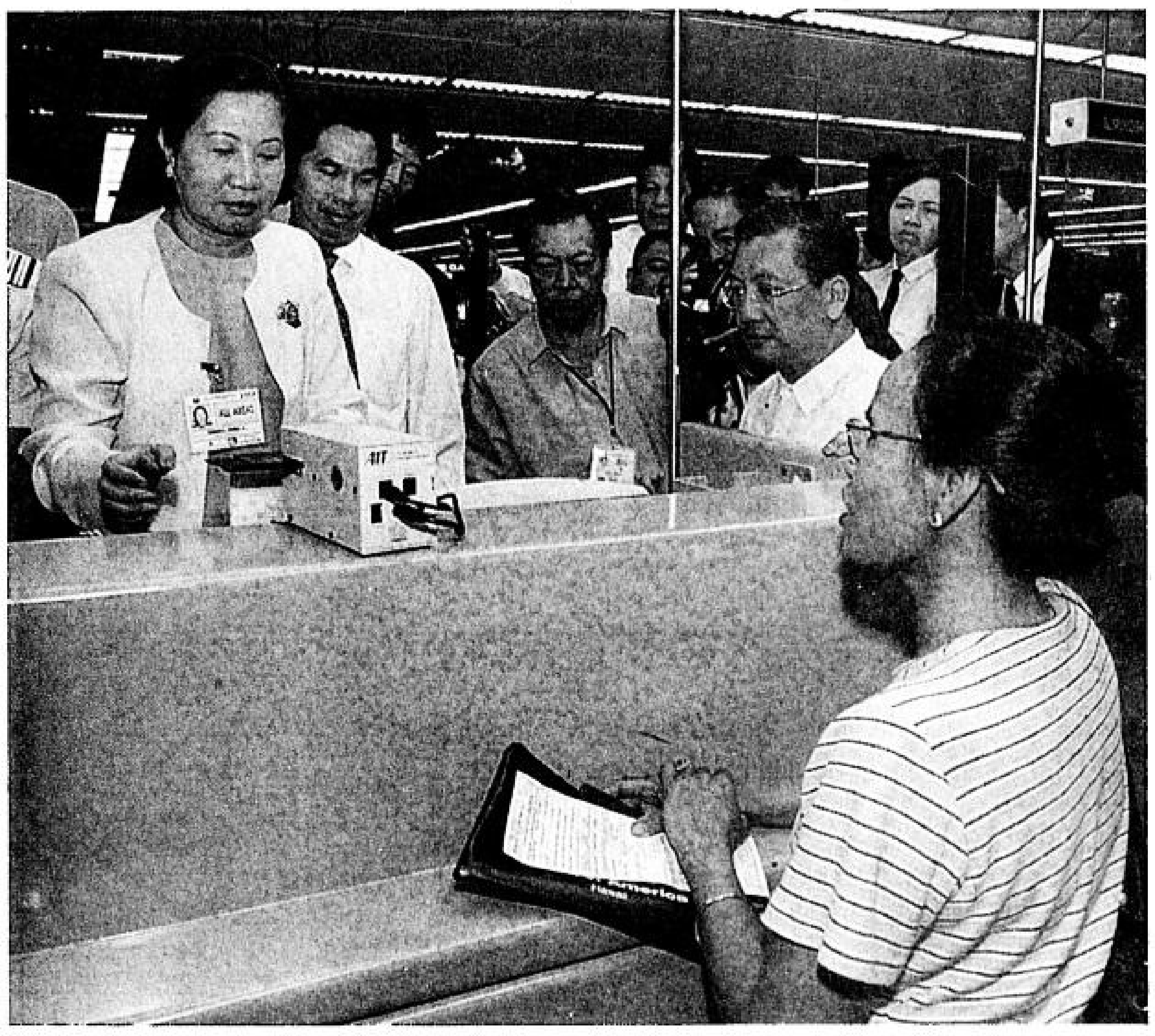

FAKE PASSPORT DETECTOR

Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo (left) uses a new reading machine that can detect fake passports. The passport reading devices have been installed at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, according to immigration supervisor Danny Almeda (in glasses, right). ROGER MARGALLO

Valenzuela's Carlos, Gunigundo wrangling over local PPC chair

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

IS THE Lakas party on the verge of collapse in Valenzuela City?

Reports of a likely party breakup have surfaced as the city's top two officials have begun going at each other's throat over who is the official local party chair.

Mayor Emmanuel Carlos has claimed to be the official chair of the People Power Coalition, but Rep. Magi Gunigundo insisted he is the duly designated party head.

Carlos and Gunigundo are running for reelection under two opposing versions of the Lakas party.

In a statement, Carlos, who is gunning for a third consecutive term, said he was recognized chair of the Valenzuela-PPC by no less than Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo, chair of the coalition's joint coordinating secretariat.

Gunigundo, a member of the "Spice Boys" at the House of Representatives, pointed out that Carlos could not claim the coalition leadership since Lakas did not recognize him.

"Carlos is misrepresenting himself," Gunigundo told the INQUIRER. "He did not even attend a single meeting of Lakas when the slates were being formed."

Official documents showed the lawmaker was appointed Lakas-Valenzuela chapter head by the party president, Vice President Teofisto Guingona.

Gunigundo blamed the PPC over the leadership dispute.

"*Magulo talaga ang* PPC," he said. "It established coalitions even with the opposition parties in the local level, which in turn pitted their own candidates against Lakas bets. This might spell doom for the coalition."

The party leadership issue was an offshoot of the long-running dispute between Carlos and Gunigundo over the city's flood and garbage problems and programs.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, March 23, 2001
3rd Week of Lent

1st Reading: Hos 14:2-10
Gospel: Mk 12:28-34

A teacher of the Law had been listening to this discussion and admired how Jesus answered them. So he came up and asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?"

Jesus answered, "The first is: *Hear, Israel! The Lord, our God, is One Lord; and you shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength.* And after this comes another one: *You shall love your neighbor as yourself.* There is no commandment greater than these two."

The teacher of the Law said to him, "Well-spoken, Master; you are right when you say that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all our heart, with all our understanding and with all our strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves is more important than any burnt offering or sacrifice."

Jesus approved this answer and said, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." But after that, no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Commentary:

What humor in this Gospel episode! Seemingly Jesus passed the exam of the religious leaders of his age, who were meticulous in weighing the commandments. Every pious Jew, who proclaims evening and morning the Jewish confession (Shema), which Jesus spontaneously recites, must evidently conclude that this is the greatest commandment. The obvious becomes hidden from one who complicates life for oneself and others. Truly the first insight of the scribe opened up the truth of the matter. There can be no moral imperative unless one experiences God as the Gospel indicative: "Hearken, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone!" We return first to this Lord God of the Covenant before we can return to his commands.

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2 men, boy charged with rape of 13-year-old

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

POLICE yesterday filed rape charges against two men and a a 15-year-old boy, for allegedly raping a 13-year-old girl in Caloocan City early this week.

Charged were Primo Rivales, 21, of Sta. Cruz, Manila, Alfred Lumano, 24, of Bagong Silang, Caloocan, and the 15-year-old boy, a resident of Barangay San Agustin, Novaliches, Quezon City.

The Caloocan City prosecutor recommended no bail for their temporary release.

The suspects were arrested for allegedly taking turns in raping the 13-year-old girl, a resident of Bagong Silang, last Monday, according to investigation by Caloocan Police Station 1.

The 15-year-old boy allegedly invited the girl, said to be his girlfriend, to meet his parents in his house, said case investigator Insp. Remie Calata.

The girl accepted the invitation, but the boy instead brought her to Lumano's house where they had a drinking session with Lumano and Rivales, police said.

When the girl was already tipsy, the young men allegedly lured her into taking shots of methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu, the investigator said.

When the girl fell unconscious, the young men took turns in abusing her, police said.

The victim and her mother went to the Caloocan Police Station 1 to report the rape.

Investigators recovered in Lumano's house the victim's school identification card and a sachet believed to have contained shabu.

The suspects are locked up at the Caloocan City jail.

Dirty politics is the name of the game

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

AS though the Filipino athlete has not been beaten and shamed enough in the international field, he continues to be a victim of shameless national sports politicians.

Sports officials, in their drive to grab power or cling to it, have used national athletes as pawns.

Yesterday, two papers, a tabloid and a struggling broadsheet, reported that Butch Tuason, first cousin of the President's husband, has been retained as head of the Philippine Sports Commission.

The reports quoted presidential spokesperson Renato Corona as saying Tuason was allowed to stay as PSC chair with his vow to step down in September, after the Southeast Asian Games.

If the reports were true, it would put Executive Secretary Renato de Villa in a bad light.

Remember that Secretary De Villa on Monday assured a big group of protesting national athletes who marched to Malacañang that leadership changes and reforms would be effected in the PSC.

In fact, Jaime Sebastian, spokesman of the protesting group, claimed that Secretary De Villa asked the national athletes to submit a list of nominees from their group who could take over the PSC reins.

* * *

My immediate reaction was to wonder if the President's men ever compared notes.

If they did, why would Mr. Corona come out with a statement that made Secretary De Villa appear like a puppet that did not know what it was mouthing.

Feeling intrigued,, I contacted our man on the beat, June Navarro, to seek the real score.

I asked him if he had allowed himself to be scooped.

"I'm here with Commissioner Tuason and he has denied the reports about his retention as PSC chief," June N. reported from the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

So where did those reports come from? I asked

"Mr. Tuason said he has not even met with Mr. Corona," our reporter explained. "He said he himself was in the dark on whether or not he would be retained as PSC chief."

What about Cristy Ramos, I asked. Is it true that the athletes' group has nominated her as PSC chair?

June Navarro said he would investigate.

* * *

I fear that, after the first blush, when it had appeared that the protesting athletes had succeeded in staging a coup following that promise from Secretary De Villa, the marchers could end up as cheap pawns in a power struggle at Philippine Sports Commission.

The reason is simple. It's slowly becoming clear that the main players behind that march to Malacañang on Monday were not the athletes themselves.

And accusing fingers have pointed to the very visible and outspoken Go Teng Kok, a one time gangland character who has supposedly reformed and instead dedicated time and efforts to sports development.

I asked around and I'm inclined to support the fears of Lydia de Vega and Eric Buhain, to name only two thinking, level-headed international campaigners, who had decided to distance themselves from the Monday marchers with the strong belief that they were being used by shameless sports politicians.

* * *

You see, that seesaw sissy leadership battle in the Basketball Association of the Philippines alone has more than bared the foulness and shame that dominate the local sports world.

The dizzying turn of events, the flip-flop of top national sports leaders in that raging basketball turf war, not to mention the primitive antagonism regularly displayed by the other association head, point to a glaring lack of true gentlemen in the national sports setup.

While the likes of Dr. Regino Ylanan, an original sports disciplinarian, had dedicated their lives to raise world beaters and make sports a molder of honorable men, our national playground has been reduced to a dirty playing field among sports politicians.

Philippine sports has also become a breeding ground for envious, good-for-nothing backbiters.

Of course, Malacañang could help restore sanity in the politically wracked national sports backyard if it steps in and names a worthy PSC chief of its own honest choice.

After it has become clear that Monday's march by national athletes had been staged by self-styled leaders with very selfish whims, Malacañang could help restore respect in the national sports setup.

And two characters must head the list of those who should not make it. These are the daughter of a former President and the first cousin of the President's husband.

Madraso gets life . . .

(From page A25)

"Madraso himself admitted that he was in the vicinity of the area where narcotics agents said they conducted the buy-bust operation against him," Escano told reporters yesterday.

Madraso was arrested in a buy-bust operation on March 11, 1999 as he was selling two kilos of shabu to policemen who posed as buyers.

Madraso had testified that he was not apprehended in the parking lot of the Sky Trek KTV on Ninoy Aquino Avenue in Parañaque but on Imelda Avenue, also in Parañaque.

Escano said he also gave weight to the fact that policemen perform their duties without any evidence of any wrongdoing.

Madraso had said the narcotics agents who arrested him, Insp. Julieto Culili and SPO2 Emerito Estrada of the PNP's Region 4 Command, tried to extort money from him.

Five days after Madraso's arrest, then Philippine National Police chief Director General Roberto Lastimoso allegedly ordered Madraso's release and sought the assistance of Supt. Francisco Jose Villaroman to drop the charges against the suspect.

This sparked a word war between Lastimoso and then Chief Supt. Panfilo Lacson, chief of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force and deposed President Joseph Estrada's most trusted police officer.

In April 1999, several top-ranking police officials accused Lastimoso of coddling drug dealers like Madraso. The accusers were Villaroman, Senior Supt. Reynor Gonzales and Supt. Rolando Anonuevo.

Lacson, now a senatorial candidate, soon joined them in accusing Lastimoso.

The Senate committees on public order, justice and blue ribbon conducted joint hearings on the case in April and May 1999. The House committee on public order and security conducted its own inquiry.

During the hearings, Lastimoso said Madraso was a "deep-penetration agent" (DPA) of the PNP. Lastimoso himself admitted his friendship with Madraso.

Madraso claimed that the documents pertaining to his appointment as a DPA were with Dr. Billy Jaca, a Cebu-based ophthalmologist.

Lacson also linked Jaca to the illegal drug trade. Jaca reportedly introduced Madraso to Lastimoso.

During the Senate and House hearings, it was revealed that the recommendation for Madraso's appointment as a DPA was still being evaluated at the time of his arrest.

In April 1999, Ombudsman Aniano Desierto directed the deputy Ombudsman for the military to conduct its own investigation. On May 4, 1999, the deputy Ombudsman recommended that Lastimoso be charged with violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

'Lechon' store security guard guns down robbery suspect in Quezon City

LYDIA'S Lechon security guard Ronald F. Sagun fired a warning shot when he spotted two men trying to steal the electric meter at the store in Quezon City early yesterday morning.

When the two men did not stop running away, Sagun shot one of them.

Sagun, 23, of GCB Security Agency Inc. and a resident of V. Cruz Street, Sampaloc, Manila, is now detained in Camp Karingal for killing the unidentified suspect outside Lydia's Lechon at the corner of Roces Avenue and Scout Reyes in Barangay Paligsahan, Quezon City, said investigator SPO1 Cresencio Bajao.

The unidentified man was described as 30 to 40 years old, of medium build, 5-foot-4 to 5-foot-7 tall, light complexioned, and wearing a blue shirt, light brown pants and sandals, Bajao said.

The shooting happened around 2 a.m. yesterday during a power outage in the vicinity of the *lechon* store.

Bajao said the guard heard the two men removing the cover of the store's electric meter. When he approached them and told them to stop, the two men ran away in the darkness while their escape vehicle, a taxi, came to pick them up.

Bajao said the guard fired a warning shot in the air but the two men continued to run to the taxi. Sagun then opened fire and hit one of the men.

The other man boarded the taxi.

Sagun later surrendered to police. He is detained in Camp Karingal in Quezon City. *Philip C. Tubeza*

Cop who ordered . . .

(From page A25)

PO1 Socrates V. Galvez, 31, of Luciano Street, Project 4, Quezon City, was charged with robbery and child abuse after a surviving snatcher, Joel Defeo, 22, positively identified him as the one who ordered Richard Embile, 16, and Francis Mijares, 15, to steal a mobile phone for his girlfriend, said investigator SPO1 Efren Sobrepena.

Embile and Mijares died after they were shot by another member of the Galas police station, PO2 Ruel Yepes, who chased them after they snatched the cell phone of St. Luke's nurse Mervyn Pala on Tuesday morning at the corner of Araneta Avenue and E. Rodriguez Boulevard.

Defeo said in his sworn statement that Galvez on Sunday told Embile he needed a phone for his girlfriend.

Defeo said he and Embile gave in to the policeman's demand because Galvez allegedly threatened to file trumped-up charges against them if they did not do the dirty work for him. Galvez had allegedly charged them in the past with stealing side mirrors of cars in Galas.

Defeo said that at around 6 a.m. Tuesday, or one-and-a-half hours before the snatching, Galvez passed by the corner of Araneta and E. Rodriguez, where the young men were already waiting for a victim.

"(Galvez) even taunted us to produce the cell phone," Defeo said.

Just before the young men pounced on nurse Pala, Galvez stood in front of a mineral water stall at the busy intersection, watching "his boys," Defeo said.

When Yepes responded to the snatching victim's cries for help and went after the suspects, Galvez apparently did not lift a finger and left the boys on their own.

Galvez later surrendered to his superiors. He was brought to Camp Karingal Wednesday night. The same night, the robbery and child abuse charges were filed against him before the Quezon City prosecutor's office.

Yepes was also detained in Camp Karingal after he was charged with two counts of homicide for the deaths of Mijares and Embile and frustrated homicide for wounding Defeo.

Sobrepena said it would be up to Pala to pursue robbery charges against Defeo.

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GALLERON

'I'm really sorry, forgive me'

By Alcuin Papa

"I'M really sorry. I hope you will forgive me."

With these words, Gilbert Galleron asked the forgiveness of relatives and families of the 14 people who were killed when the truck he was driving plowed into a fisherman's wharf in Parañaque on Monday.

Galleron, a native of Negros Occidental, yesterday surrendered to police and Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez, who presented him to media.

The driver told reporters that he finally decided to surrender himself to authorities three days after the accident because his conscience was bothering him.

"I was afraid, that's why I hid," he said in Filipino. "I could have been lynched if I stayed around."

He said he had just come from the Shell oil depot in Pandacan and was on his way to Cavite. Just after the truck passed a bridge in Barangay La Huerta, Parañaque, his right front wheel blew up, causing him to lose control of the vehiole, he said.

He said he tried to apply the brakes and to steer to the left but the truck had already careened to the right until it rammed into four vehicles parked at the wharf.

He said that just before the truck hit the vehicles, he jumped out of the vehicle and ran away.

He said his driver's license burned inside the truck. He also said he sustained a gash in the left leg.

He said he has driving for two years now.

Only 11 of the victims have been identified so far. Investigators said it was difficult to identify the fatalities because of the extent of their burns.

Parañaque police yesterday identified six of the people who died in the accident: Precilla Pelenia, 23; Nikka Shaira Pelenia, 4; Amelia Pelenia, 24; Johera Pelenia, 2; Armando Sobreno and Cherrie Lomentigar, 18.

On Wednesday, the **Inquirer** reported the names of five other victims: Emelita Yansom, 42; Leonida Barroga, 41; Emerlita and Orlando Sabalboro, and Danilo Benguello.

Charges of reckless impudence resulting to multiple homicide, multiple injuries and hit and run have been filed against Galleron before the Parañaque City prosecutor's office.

However, the head of the Southern Police District, Chief Supt. Manuel Cabigon, said they could not take Galleron into custody without a court recommendation.

Cabigon said it was up to the court to determine the liability of DP Freight Co., Galleron's employer.

Mayor Marquez said trucks traveling in his city should be guarded and monitored to avoid similar accidents.

"There is a need to change the system," he said. "Heavy trucks should have special requirements. Otherwise, we will have to limit the trucks coming in."

He said he would propose to the city council an ordinance that would limit or ban heavy trucks in Parañaque.

He has offered financial support to the relatives and families of the accident victims, he added.

JV Ejercito uses 'Estrada'

By Agnes E. Donato

DOES the name Estrada ring a bell more than Ejercito does?

San Juan mayoral candidate Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito must think so, based on his campaign posters posted on almost every wall in the town, where his father, deposed President Estrada, started his own political career in the '60s.

Ejercito aide Noribel Taguba said the son of the former President by former movie starlet Guia Gomez was advised by his lawyers to include "JV Estrada" as one of his aliases when he filed his certificate of candidacy. The lawyers pointed out that many San Juan residents were more familiar with Estrada than with Ejercito.

The screen name of the deposed President when he was a movie actor is also the surname used by JV's half-brother, incumbent San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada.

Even former First Lady Luisa "Loi" Ejercito, who is running for a Senate seat under the opposition party, has been using her husband's screen surname.

"Admittedly, most people, (even) in San Juan, know of the family more as the Estrada family than as the Ejercito family," Taguba said.

JV's real name is Joseph Victor Gomez Ejercito. But in the May 14 election, he could also be referred to as Jose Victor Ejercito, JV Ejercito and JV Estrada, among other names.

Graft raps vs Erap ally dismissed

By Jerry Esplanada

THE OMBUDSMAN has dismissed with finality the charges of graft and corruption against the former head of three government-sequestered firms who is also a close ally of former President Joseph Estrada.

The graft case against Ronaldo Salonga was filed in August 2000 by businesswoman Patricia Banez, a former lessee of the state-owned Payanig properties in Pasig City.

Banez had accused Salonga of collecting from her at least P1.2 million in kickbacks for a 1998 lease settlement agreement. She also charged Salonga's relative, Emmanuel Zapanta, president of the private company Gold Park Inc.

But the Ombudsman did not buy Banez' allegations, which it described as "incredible," "illogical" and "absurd."

Salonga, a nephew of former Senate President Jovito Salonga, was chair and president of the Independent Realty Corp. (IRC) and the Mid-Pasig Land Development Corp. (MLDC) during the Estrada administration. He was also chair of the Philippine Communications Satellite (Philcomsat).

Mid-Pasig owns at least 18 hectares of land in Barangay Ugong, Pasig. On June 4, 1998, Banez was reportedly ejected from an 8,500-meter portion of the property.

A month after, she entered into a settlement agreement with Mid-Pasig wherein she offered a half-million-peso increase in the monthly rental. In September of the same year, she entered into a lease contract with Gold Park as sub-lessee.

In acquitting Salonga, Desierto and Assistant Ombudsman Abelardo Aportadera found "no substantial evidence to hold respondent liable as charged."

"There is also no proof that (Salonga) took advantage of his position in IRC to demand such favor from (Banez)," they also pointed out.

The Ombudsman noted that the purported settlement agreement (dated Oct. 26, 1998) was entered into by then Mid-Pasig director Alejandro Soler and not by Salonga.

"Indeed, the agreement benefited the government as the monthly rental paid to the state was increased from P59,000 to P500,000," the Ombudsman said. "To believe the allegation that the increase in the rental was made to cover the commission appears illogical and absurd since the increase would be more burdensome to Banez as she has to pay more. We could have believed otherwise had the monthly rental been reduced to benefit her."

'Boy Tisoy' hunted for Claudine rape-slay

By Alcuin Papa

PARAÑAQUE police are following the movements of a "Boy Tisoy," who is suspected to be the leader of the group that abducted, raped and killed Claudine Mabel Francisco last week.

Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez yesterday told reporters that police received a tip from an informant that Boy Tisoy had boasted to drug dealers in Laguna province that he and his cohorts had killed someone on the day Francisco was reported missing.

The informant said Boy Tisoy was frequently seen in Laguna buying shabu from certain dealers. He was described as a fair-skinned mestizo who is believed to be from a rich family.

The Parañaque mayor said he ordered the city police to place the suspect under intensive surveillance. "We have been getting a lot of calls and tips," he said. "But we have checked out this particular informant and he seems for real."

Police theorized that three or four young men from rich families on March 10 abducted Francisco, 21, raped and killed her and dumped her body in a creek in Barangay San Antonio, Parañaque.

A few hours later, the suspects, using Francisco's car, tried to abduct another young woman also in Parañaque. The car was found abandoned in Barangay Bangkal in Makati the next morning.

Police theorized that Francisco knew the suspects or was even their friend.

The National Bureau of Investigation is also looking into the case and has placed two teeners under surveillance. Witnesses said they saw the two young men leaving Francisco's car in Bangkal, Makati.

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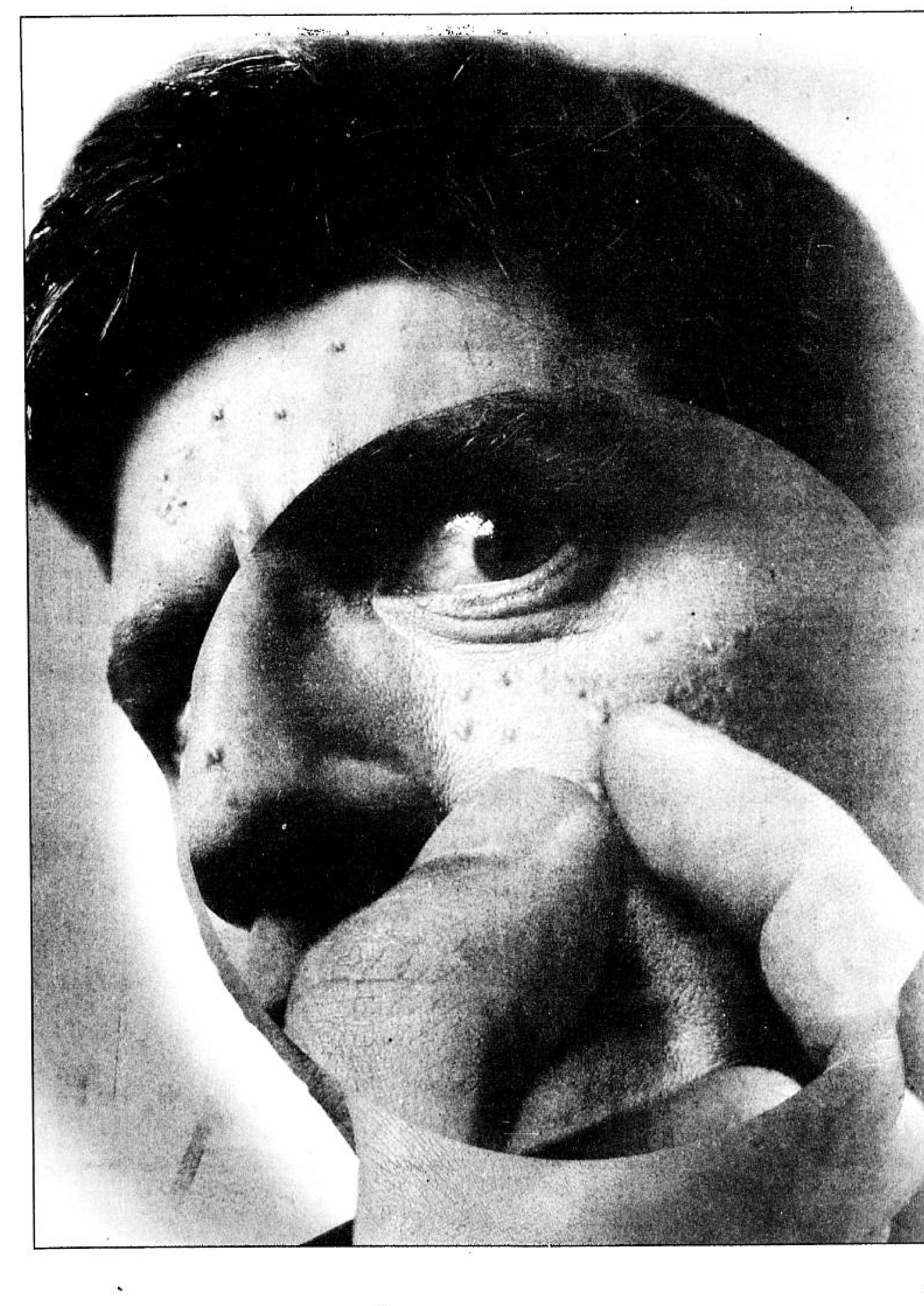

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WINSLET gets a Rush. The Oscars overlooked her but nominated him.

'QUILLS'

Infuriating, invigorating, virtuous, vulgar

By Alexis L. Loinaz

REVIEW

RAPE. Pederasty. Bondage. Necrophilia.

You wouldn't expect these deviant sexual subjects to spurt from the mind of a brilliant writer. But from the mind of the Marquis de Sade, literature's infamous high priest of perversion (he inspired the term "sadism"), they become sick, seductive orgies of excess that take us to the bowels of human degeneracy.

The Marquis de Sade's exotic sexual proclivities are brought to life in "Quills," the incendiary, fictionalized film about the writer's last years in a mental asylum. Directed by Philip Kaufman, "Quills" does more than just strip the Marquis and fondle his monstrous mind; it actually succeeds in turning this iconoclast into one of the most captivating and terrifying antiheroes since Hannibal Lecter. The scary part is that Lecter is fictional. The Marquis de Sade was real.

Set in 18th century France, "Quills" finds the Marquis (played by a wicked Geoffrey Rush) institutionalized at the Charenton Asylum for the Insane following a series of sex crimes. There, he remains locked in a posh cell, surrounded by fancy furniture, shelves full of books, parchments and quills.

As part of his therapy, the Marquis is encouraged by the young priest who oversees the institution, the Abbé Coulmier (Joaquin Phoenix of "Gladiator"), to purge his sinful thoughts by writing them down.

Unbeknownst to the Abbé, these carnal musings capture the fancy of Charenton's virginal but fervid laundress, Madeleine (a very earthy Kate Winslet), who sneaks out the Marquis' manuscripts to a publisher. When the scandalous prose comes to the attention of Napoleon, he dispatches Dr. Royer-Collard (Michael Caine)—a kind of quack doctor who employs questionable methods of treatment—to manage the asylum and make sure the Marquis is reined in.

Climax

Silencing him proves to be an impossible task. As every effort is made to suppress his work, the Marquis constantly finds ingenious—even repugnant—ways to tell his tales, first by writing with wine and eventually with his own blood (trust me: it gets worse).

When the film finally reaches its orgasmic climax, we see a desperate man consumed by his own madness—a man who has turned the Charenton Asylum into a skewed reflection of his base and blasphemous soul.

"Quills" is as appealing as it is appalling because it serves as a provocative excursion to the nether regions of human sexuality and—subsequently—the human id. The film shows us a man who is not afraid to dance with his demons; on the contrary, he seems to derive both pleasure and pain from doing so.

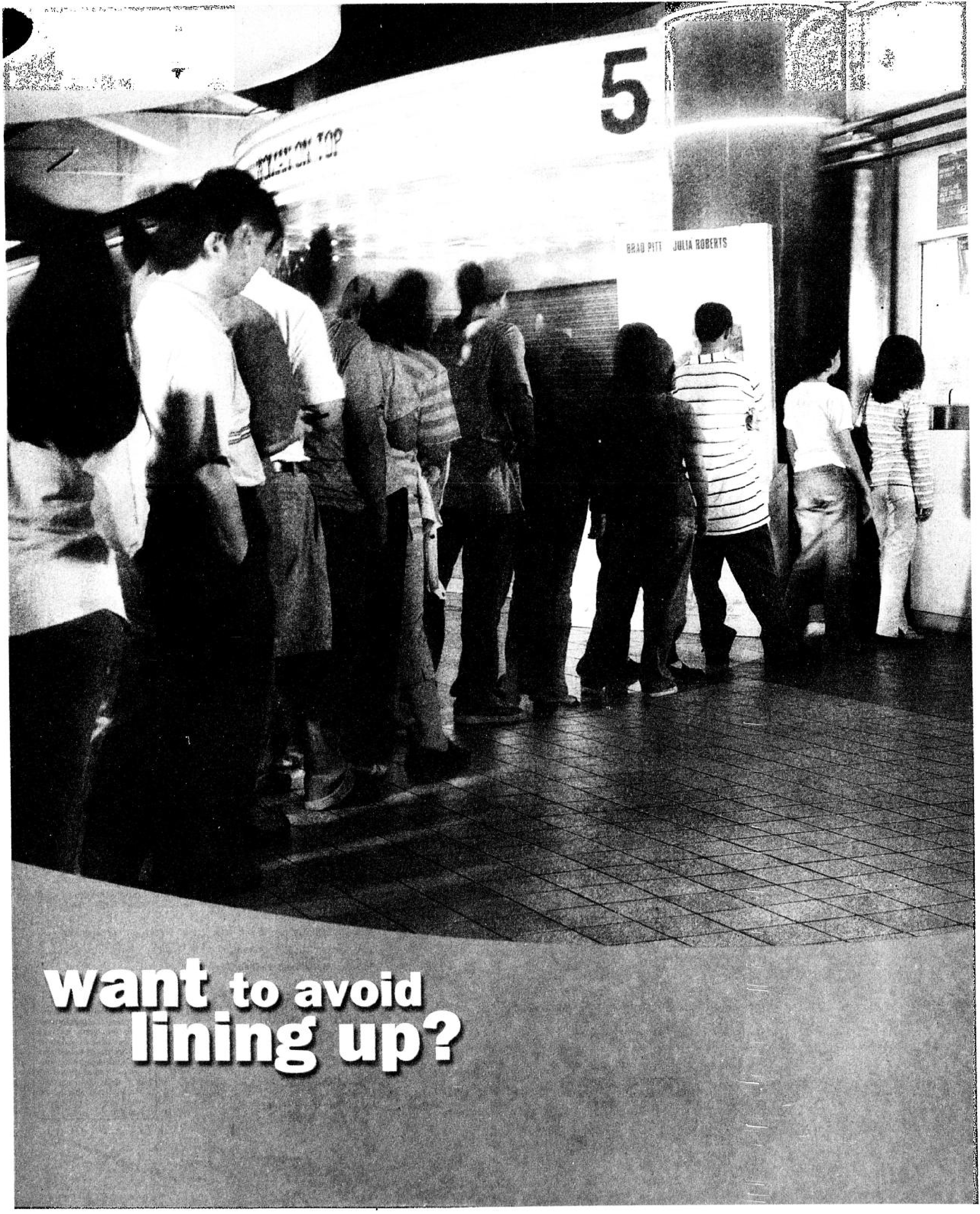
Hypocrisy

More than unspeakable acts of lasciviousness, "Quills" is really about hypocrisy in all its forms—be it sexual, emotional or spiritual. Yes, at first the Marquis may appear like the sole sexual libertine in the film, but soon we realize he isn't the only one.

Like luscious foreplay, "Quills" titillates and tantalizes by showing us a world where hedonism and holiness, chastity and concupiscence are essentially flip sides of the same coin. More tellingly, the film reveals how each invariably fosters the other.

Still, "Quills" has no illusions about the horrific bloodlust that the Marquis' subversive prose represented, and the film makes no attempt to romanticize it. While the early part of the movie has a delicious, forbidden quality to it (especially when the townsfolk first tear into the Marquis' underground novels), "Quills" slowly devolves into a disturbing portrait of debauchery and moral decadence.

INFURIATING/A30



‘BILLY ELLIOT’

Ballet and bonding, dreaming and doing

By Ruben Cruz Jr.

REVIEW

WHAT in the world does dancing have to do with the travails of workingmen on the picket lines? Usually nothing.

But the two seemingly divergent elements not only make sense in a film like "Billy Elliot," they also create wonderful, poignant artistry that is sure to touch audiences, however lean they may be in local theaters showing the film (there were less than 20 people in the one I went to).

Billy Elliot (Jamie Bell) is an 11-year old boy who has an innate passion and ability for dancing. He finds dancing an agreeable expression of everything he does and of every emotion in his body. You can see it in the exuberance with which he jumps up and down on his bed, or the way he dances through his chores around the house.

In the midst of his hard life in Northern England, made all the more harder by his mother's passing and the coal miners' strike that has left his father and brother protractedly out of work, dancing seems to be the panacea that keeps him not only sane but happy.

When the gym where his father has him take boxing lessons starts sharing space with ballet classes, he finds himself irresistibly drawn to the girls in tutus, taught by the chain-smoking Mrs. Wilkinson (Julie Walters). He can't box, but he's got the footwork that could put Muhammad Ali to shame, so he finds crossing over to the other side of the gym a step in the right direction.

Mrs. Wilkinson thinks it's the right step too, as she thinks Billy to be a natural, a lad whose raw ability might just be good enough for the Royal Ballet School in London.

It's a dream that is not quite acceptable to a family of hard-nosed coalminers, especially one facing the difficulties of a debilitating union strike. When Billy's father Jackie (Gary Lewis) finds out that he's been skipping his boxing lessons to take up ballet, he gets into a rage and starts questioning his son's sexuality.

Familiar theme

The theme of "Billy Elliot" is certainly familiar. Boy has a dream. Boy goes after his dream. There are odds along the way. It's formula material for a film that could have easily taken the road often traveled by feel-good films.

But the beauty of "Billy Elliot" can be seen in its finer details. Billy doesn't just go dancing his way into the hearts of his rugged family and townspeople, although that would have probably made for some laughs and a passable way to spend two hours in a theater.

Instead, the film comes across its humor spontaneously. It doesn't resort to setting up audiences for a laugh. We instinctively find the funny, along with sad, in the way sensitive, working-class people deal with the realities of their harsh life.

The film doesn't box in any of its characters. Rather, it imbues them with shades all too familiar to us as being human.

Jackie could have easily taken the role of villain in the story for being the stumbling block to Billy's dream, but he stands out more as a father struggling to fulfill his responsibilities to his family while holding steadfast to his principles as a union man.

Best scenes

Gary Lewis' performance adds dimensions to the role of a strict, blue-collar father. He pulls off some of the best scenes in the film with aplomb and you cannot help but not like the guy in this film.

Walters excellently underplays her portrayal of a mentor (Is she really the bombshell in "Educating Rita"? How time flies indeed).

The script, to its credit, does not milk our emotions by having her relationship with the young Billy become somewhat of a substitute for the deceased mother the boy misses dearly.

Even the film's minor characters are not painted with a single brush, like Billy's militant unionist brother (Jamie Draven), his senile grandmother (Jean Heywood) and his sexually confused best friend, Michael (Stuart Wells).

Then of course there's Billy himself. Jamie Bell looks like any other kid plucked from the streets of England, and that ordinary, "non-actory" look, is definitely an advantage. But the kid can act, and does not seem to be acting.

His dancing is not polished but one can see the potential for brilliance perhaps because of the intensity he exudes. There is a line Mrs. Wilkinson said in the film, that "dance is feeling expressed in movement" and it perfectly describes Jamie Bell in motion.

When he dances through the cobblestone streets of the town, I can't help but think of Rocky running through the streets of Philadelphia, only his eyes burn brighter than Stallone's.

The film successfully integrates its socially conscious subplot—the struggle of workers to earn a better living—into its central theme. The confluence of the coalminers' anguish and the poetry of dance produces some of the most moving scenes in the film, like the part where shots of Billy's serene ballet dancing are paired off with the violent clashes of the coalminers against phalanxes of riot policemen, or the one where Billy goes off to the Royal Ballet school while his father and brother descend into the mining pits once again.

About ourselves

The film's industrial setting further highlights its story. The clutter of brick row houses in the mining town and the mostly dark colors employed by the filmmakers provide the perfect backdrop for the period (Margaret Thatcher's United Kingdom, when the general strike was called by the trade unions in 1984).

"Billy Elliot" is worth watching because ultimately, it's more than just about a boy who wishes to be a ballet dancer. It's also about the bond between fathers and sons, and the sacrifices that have to be made for the sake of family and principle, common, ordinary issues we contend with every day of our lives.

The film might tell us a thing or two about ourselves. Now, if we can only have more people in those theaters.

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Infuriating . . .

(From page A28)

The film's later scenes, in particular, are so extreme and unsettling, they left me both wide-eyed with awe and wincing in disgust.

"Quills" could have easily remained a virtual shock-fest of sex and violence, but director Kaufman—working with a script by Doug Wright—is smarter than that. He breathes transcendent life into the film by going beyond its inherent shock value and focusing on the timeless argument that lies at its core: Censorship.

Puritan

From the way the Marquis' stories find their way into print to the way he constantly defies the asylum's authorities, "Quills" depicts a man's struggle to keep his ideas and opinions alive—no matter how radical they might seem—in the face of harsh opposition. And while the Marquis' vile writings revealed his corrupt spirit, they also exposed the pretensions of a puritan society that hoped to crush it.

Ironically, the more these social institutions tried to quell him, the more frantically the Marquis sought a venue for his lecherous thoughts. In this sense, "Quills" is an extraordinary example of how a creative spirit—even one as perverse as the Marquis'—will ultimately find ways to flourish amid insurmountable odds.

Of course, the highlight of "Quills" is its acclaimed cast, which includes two Oscar winners (Rush and Caine). Rush, in particular, is delightfully irreverent as the Marquis (he snagged a best-actor nomination for his turn here) and he laces his performance with menacing charm.

In the actor's hands, the Marquis becomes more than just a sexual deviant; he actually appears sympathetic and—dare I say it?—almost human.

Winslet should sue the Oscar people for overlooking her performance here. The actress turns in a finely nuanced portrayal of a woman who walks a thin line between virtue and vulgarity, and hers is the thread that holds the film together.

The only setback of "Quills" is that it has one too many epilogues and its last act feels needlessly stretched. By this time, the movie has pulled so many sensational punches that I was already numbed by its jaw-dropping explicitness. Naturally, anything that follows will tend to feel flaccid.

Surely, "Quills" will infuriate audiences as much as it will invigorate them. And while the film features many loathsome scenes, at its core it provokes critical thought, pushes the outside of the envelope for free speech and blows the lid off repressed conservatism.

These, more than bouncing sexual organs and fornicating bodies, prove to be the film's real turn-on.

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8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE GIFT
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3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	PANABLA
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY

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7	DOLBY SURROUND	WOMAN ON TOP

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4	OBJECT OF OBSESSION

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	PANABLA
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FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
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ACT-3	CLOSED
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QUEZON-1	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
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Shifting loyalties on television

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

IF there's film piracy, there are "pirates" in the TV trade as well. Unlike their movie counterparts, however, they don't make unauthorized copies of movies for illicit gain, but deplete the stables of rival TV networks of the on-camera talents that those stations have trained through the years.

Of late, it's ABS-CBN that has been doing much of the "persuading," while most of the "pirated" talents have come from the GMA network.

Some years ago, it was the team of **Jay Sonza** and **Mel Tiangco** that left ABS-CBN for happier if not greener pastures at GMA. These past months, however, practically all of the traffic has gone from GMA to ABS-CBN.

Karen Davila, **Cher Calvin**, and, just last week, **Ryan Agoncillo** are only some of the GMA talents who have been persuaded, seduced and otherwise convinced to shift their allegiance to ABS-CBN.

If things keep up at this pace, the trend may soon turn into a rout.

Good talents aren't all that easy to discover and train. If they were, we wouldn't have the current situation of only a few stellar TV talents being made to appear in so many TV shows on the same channel.

Some people say that ABS-CBN can't be blamed for being so attractive to quite a number of the talents of the "runner-up" network. After all it leads in the ratings and offers the highest talent fees, plus other perks—what TV talent could resist such a seductive package of goodies?

Besides, wooing talents away from rival networks is part of the game in the highly competitive world of television. If GMA doesn't want the ranks of its talents to be decimated, it should offer them a competitively attractive package of goodies, too, some observers opine.

On the other hand, there are those who see ABS-CBN as the heavy in this scenario, sucking other stations' talents like a magnet and taking advantage of the program hosts that networks like GMA have painstakingly trained for such a long time.

As for the pirated talents themselves, there are two schools of thought about them, too:

One sees them as upwardly-mobile people who know that being with ABS-CBN will boost their careers in a major way. The other views them as opportunistic, disloyal weaklings. What do you think?

Finally, is there a way to blunt the negative impact of TV piracy on the stations that lose talents to other networks?

First, talent contracts have to be made more iron-clad in their loyalty stipulations, and should take effect for a longer period of time—not just one year, but from three to even five.

This may sound like an eternity, but when talents are new and unknown, some of them would agree to such stringent conditions. Provided, of course, that enough perks are provided to make the long period of contractual exclusivity worth their while.

Second, each network should boost its own talent discovery and training program. That way, if some of its stellar talents are pirated by a rival network, it would have more than enough trained replacements to field practically at a moment's notice.

And, third? A stronger sense of loyalty should be inculcated by their networks in their homegrown talents. And the networks should treat their contract talents so fairly and well that they would have precious few reasons to heed the TV pirates' seductive siren call.

Tiongson not blaming Church but its 'moral terrorists'

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

DR. **Nicanor Tiongson** has no regrets about quitting his post as chair of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board after only five weeks in office.

"It caused me so much anguish but I have no problems about letting go," he told the INQUIRER in an interview immediately after he announced his resignation in a news conference Wednesday at noon.

"You don't grow up if you don't feel pain," he said. "I have learned more in five weeks here than in my years in school. The five weeks were not wasted."

Tiongson resigned after President **Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo** announced on Tuesday that she would fire him. The Catholic Church criticized Tiongson for allowing the exhibition of the controversial **Joey Reyes** sex film, "Live Show."

"Why will they blame it on us," Tiongson lamented. "The MTRCB does not produce films. Why don't they attack the producers? They are expecting something from the agency that it is not empowered to do."

Tiongson said he resigned because he refused to be an instrument of the repression of the freedom of expression.

"All my life, I have always been fighting for freedom of expression," he said. "Since the '70s when I was a student activist to this day that I am teaching at UP, it has always been a constant theme in my classes.

"We have ousted a dictator, but the fight is not over yet. We must continue to be vigilant. This is a continuing struggle."

Ironically, it was Tiongson who got the ire of **Jaime Cardinal Sin**, when it was former censors chair **Armida Siguion-Reyna** who approved the showing of "Live Show" in May last year.

Produced by Regal Entertainment, "Live Show" was rated R-18 after a second review committee viewed it with Siguion-Reyna.

Peter Malone, media specialist of the Organization Catholique International du Cinema (OCIC), also gave the film an R-18 classification. Malone was the same guy invited by local church leaders in 1999 to help provide guidelines for censorship during the controversies of **Romy Suzara**'s "Sutla."

"Clearly, the recall of 'Live Show' shall mark the beginning of the mad and indiscriminate suppression of any film that has nudity or sex in it, even if these appear in context and have meaning and significance," Tiongson maintained.

"In this crusade of 'moral terrorists,' 'Live Show' earns the distinction of being the first baby to get thrown out with the bath water."

Tiongson is not happy that the Catholic Church is meddling in the affairs of the state.

"I want to point out that it's not the Catholic Church per se, but certain personalities of ultra-conservative groups within the Church who want to have their way and have power," he pointed out.

He said he has deep respect for Cardinal Sin but was disappointed after their meeting at the Archbishop's Palace in Mandaluyong City, where the cardinal berated him.

"I admired Cardinal Sin for the role he played in Edsa I and II," Tiongson said. "But seeing him talk to me like that was traumatizing for me. He doesn't know my entire life. We should tell him there are other points of view and that he is not alone. We should pray for him."

It also baffled Tiongson how the Cardinal could have a big influence on the administration of President Macapagal.

"The problem is she (Ms Macapagal) only has an ear for the other side, not for us," Tiongson said. "I consider this job as a learning experience because now I know that the Cardinal can exert a very big influence on the President."

But after his "traumatizing" meeting with Cardinal Sin, Tiongson said he immediately became at peace with himself.

"I knew what happened had nothing to do with my personality," he shared. "I stood proud and held my head high while walking out of his (Cardinal Sin) residence."

Tiongson, who was also the former president of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, appeared cool and calm after announcing his resignation.

"Controversies are nothing new to me," he said. "Since CCP, I've been faced with countless controversies. I eat them for breakfast. But it has made me more committed to the struggle for freedom of expression."

Tiongson will go back to teaching at the University of the Philippines. He will also work on three more books on Philippine theater, which are part of his five-volume series.

Goma, Osang, Diether to host Gawad Urian

TOP SHOW BIZ celebrities will converge tomorrow evening (Saturday, March 24) at the University of the Philippines Theater in Diliman, Quezon City to toast the best and the brightest of Philippine cinema during the 24th Gawad Urian. The ceremonies will be staged by Airtime Marketing and telecast live on RPN-9.

Gawad Urian is considered the most reliable barometer of excellence in Philippine cinema. It is handed out by the Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino, the society of respected film critics.

Hosting the show are Rosanna Roces, Ruffa Gutierrez, Richard Gomez, Rustom Padilla, Diether Ocampo, and Dingdog Dantes.

Lorna Tolentino will host the Gawad Dekada, a special segment of the awards ceremony that will name the top films of the 1990s.

Gawad Dekada will also name the top actors of the 1990s. In contention are the 1990s best acting winners in the lead and supporting categories, such as Vilma Santos, Nora Aunor, Lorna Tolentino, Richard Gomez, Raymond Bagatsing, Jaclyn Jose, Aga Muhlach and Elizabeth Oropesa.

Nida Blanca and Delia Razon will present the Natatanging Urian to the Manahan Sisters (Andrea, Victorina and Juanita) for their lifetime achievement in makeup and special visual effects.

To sing the Gawad Urian theme song are Jolina Magdangal, Cris Villonco, Shaina Magdayao, Streetboys, and the VIP Dancers.

To perform special numbers are Regine Velasquez, Glydel Mercado, Ralion Alonzo, Roselle Nava, Robert Seña, Bituin Escalante, Pinky Marquez, and Nolyn Cabahug.

To sing a medley of classics by Constancio De Guzman (composer of "Bayan Ko") are 92 A.D., Richard Merck, Dulce, Patricia Javier, and J.M. Rodriguez.

The chair of the Manunuri is Agustin "Hammy" Sotto, founding president of the Society of Film Archivists. The vice chair is Mario Hernando, *Sunday Malaya* editor, MTRCB member, and special lecturer at the Faculty of Arts and Letters of the University of Santo Tomas.

Members are former MTRCB chair Nick Tiongson, broadcast and print personality Butch Francisco, Ramon Magsaysay awardee Bienvenido Lumbera; Gigi Javier-Alfonso, film professor at the UP College of Mass Communication (UP-CMC) and dean of the UP-Diliman School of Distance Education; Ellen Paglinauan, dean of UP-CMC; Bro. Mike Rapatan, FSC, chair of the Department of Communication of the De la Salle University; Roland Tolentino, assistant professor at UP-CMC; and Lito B. Zulueta, INQUIRER editor and coordinator of the Department of Journalism of the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters.

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LATE NIGHT SCREENING SCHEDULES
FOR
MARCH 24 (Saturday), 2001

THE GIFT (PG-13)
Alabang Town Center 11:30 p.m.
Glorietta 4 12:00 mn
Greenbelt 11:00 p.m.

CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON (PG-13)
Glorietta 4 12:00 mn

BAIT (PG-13)
Alabang Town Center 11:15 p.m.
Glorietta 4 12:00 mn

CHOCOLAT (PG-13)
Alabang Town Center 10:45 p.m.
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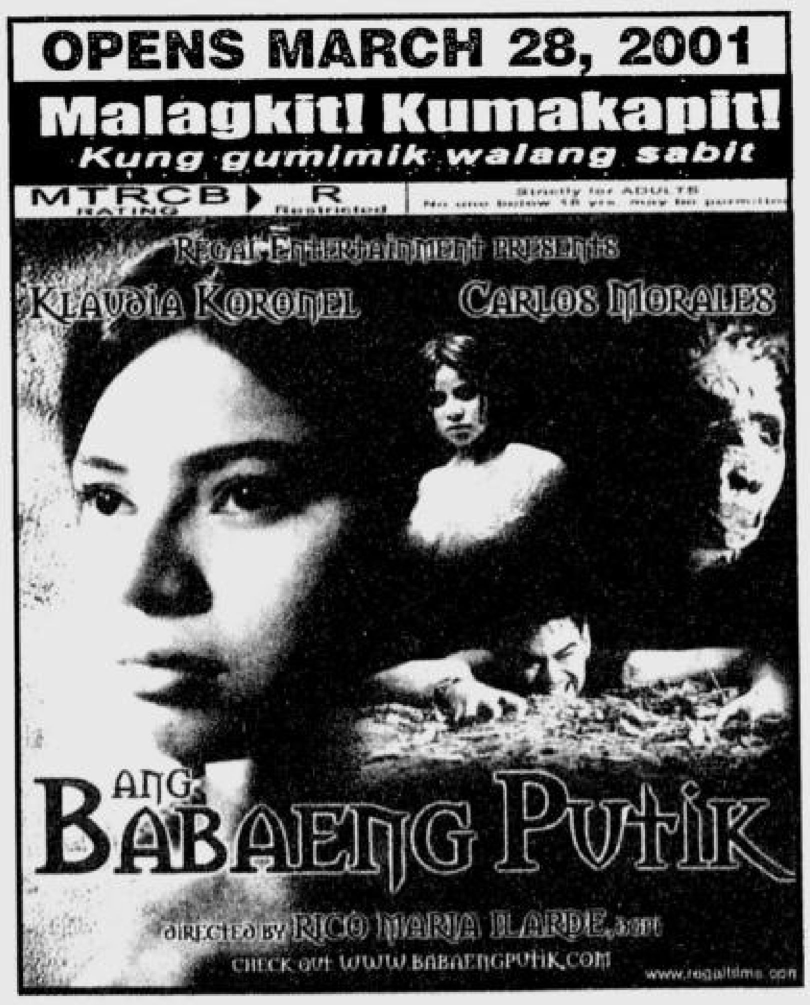

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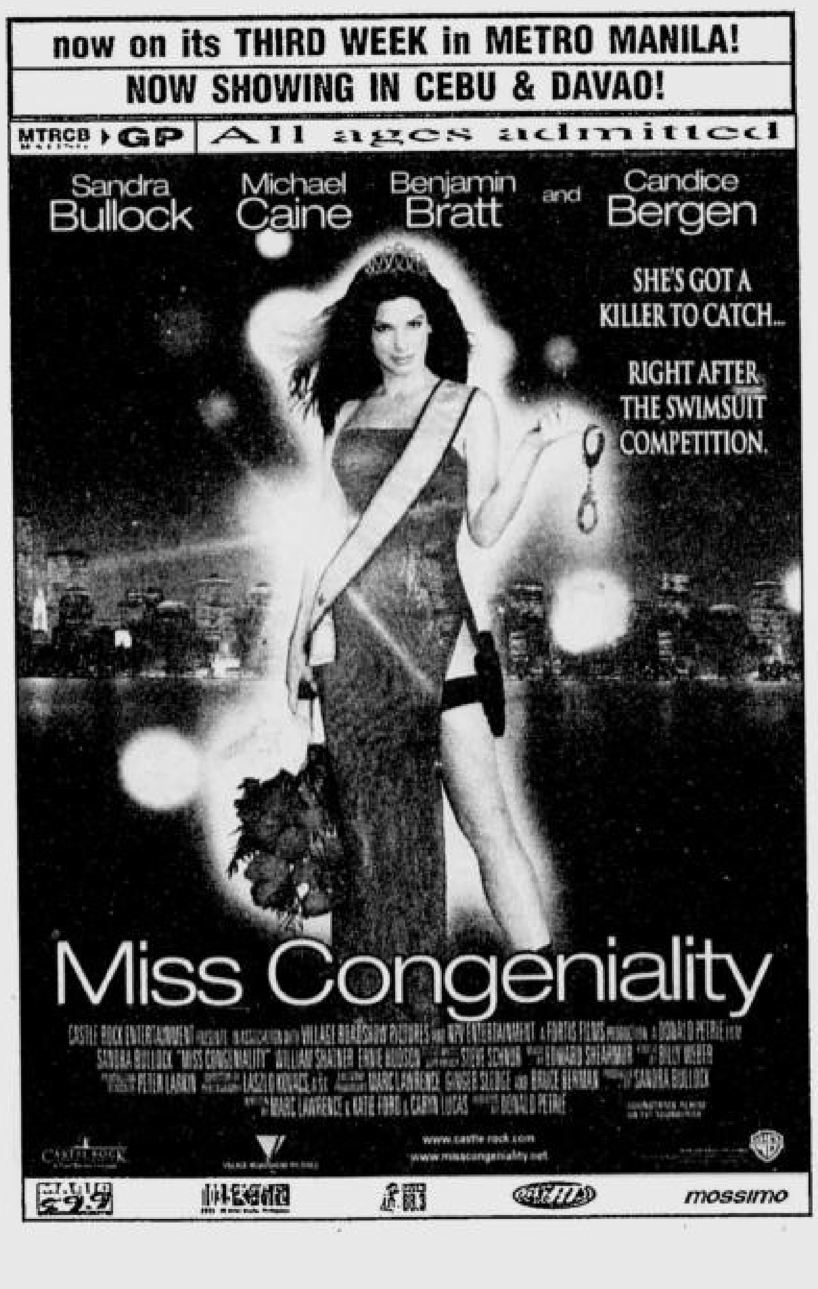
THE GIFT - P 13 12:35, 3:00, 5:25, 7:50, 10:15	BAIT - P 13 12:20, 3:00, 5:40, 8:30	WEDDING PLANNER - P 13 12:50, 2:55, 5:00, 7:05, 9:10, 11:15



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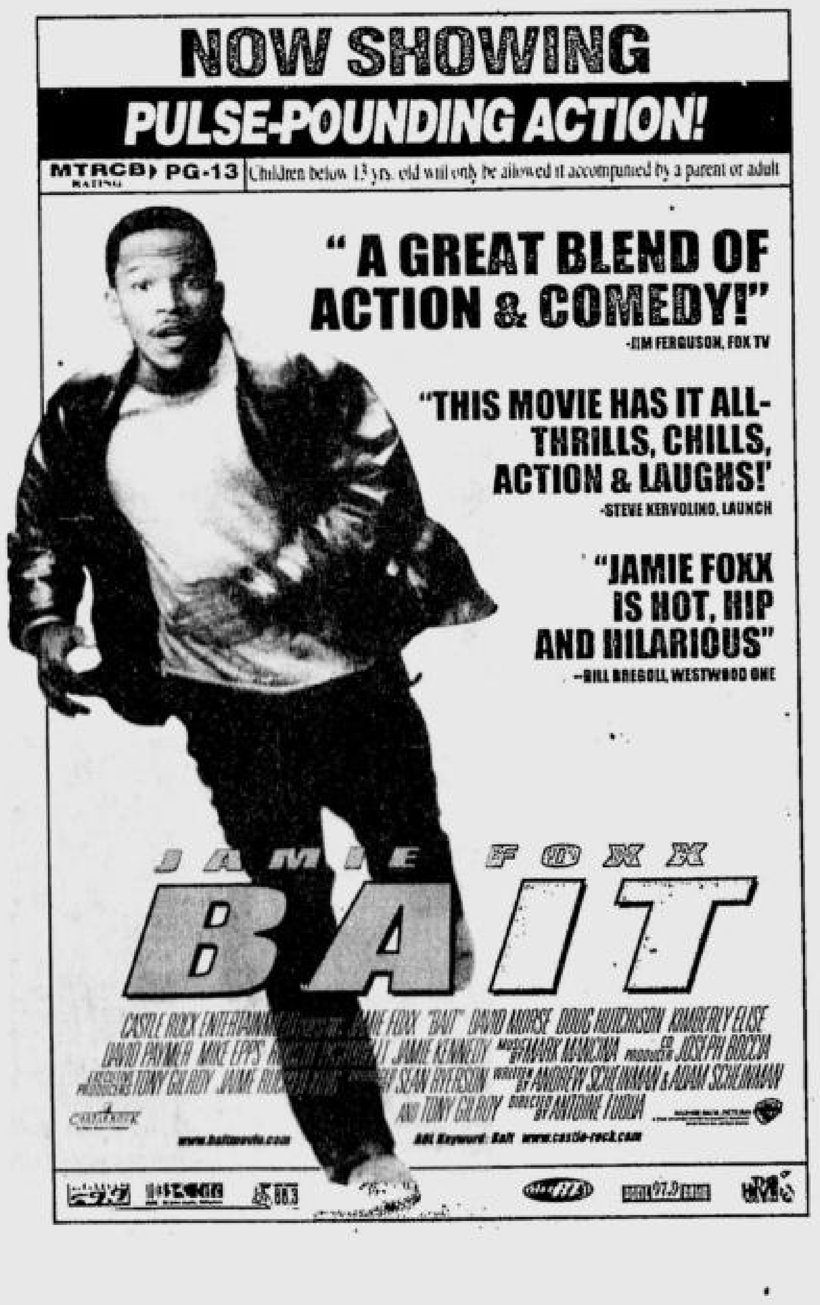

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

An afternoon with GMA in a very familiar place

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

I HAD the special privilege of being granted a one-on-one interview with President **Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo** on Tuesday, the 60th day of her presidency. It was my first time in the Malacañang Palace in nine years, and it felt very special to revisit its rooms, walk up its majestic staircase, and bask in the power that emanates from this historic seat of power.

I went through all the security procedures, and I was very impressed with how well coordinated our scheduled appointment was. My show had faxed to the Press secretary's office the list of crew and staff members who would be present during the interview and we were all given access passes valid for the time and day of the interview.

Our equipment was thoroughly but quickly checked by the Palace security. Just like in the airport, everybody had to go through the metal detector machine before being permitted entrance into Malacañang's grounds. The X-ray machines were very high-tech, and I got a clear viewing of all the contents of my make-up kit and handbag.

No cars were allowed inside beyond the Office of the Press Secretary. We strolled in and enjoyed the late afternoon breeze. The grounds leading to the Palace are still impressively well-maintained and very clean, and the trees were green and lush.

Inside, the Palace still had the feeling of being isolated from the hustle and bustle of the outside world, but the staff members who met us were very charming and helpful.

We conducted our interviews in one of the sitting rooms, where the portraits of all the former first ladies are displayed. President Macapagal kindly noted that she felt my dad should also have a portrait present there. It is a bit ironic that when the time comes that his likeness is on the wall, he will be right beside former first lady **Imelda Marcos**.

The sofas were imposing yet still very comfortable, and the upholstery was a nice creamy beige. It is interesting to note that in the very room where we conducted our taping was the table on which former President **Joseph Estrada** had signed the now infamous "Jose Velarde" signature, while sitting beside **Clarissa Ocampo**.

President Arroyo had mentioned that the table, which was a beautiful, solid round narra, surrounded by chairs with bright golden yellow upholstered seat cushions, was originally in the Presidential Residence across the grounds but they transferred it to the main palace since this is where she now resides and where she conducts all her meetings and carries out the duties of her office.

The President also said that when the People Power I and II Museum is completed, the table and its set of chairs will be put on display.

I was definitely won over by the President's very natural and candid charm. When I asked if they had brought their furniture over or if she had any pieces made or refurbished for her private residence, she said she was just making do with what was already there.

When I asked whose bedroom furniture she is now using, she said that since the bedroom she now occupies is small in comparison to the opulent and spacious surroundings shown during the tour by the news program "The Correspondents" of former President Estrada's private living quarters, she found the former master's bedroom set just too humungous for her needs. So she opted to make do with the bedroom furniture for former first daughter **Jackie Ejercito-Lopez**.

My mom always says that my being *maluho* comes from the Kapampangan in me, but President Macapagal, although a true daughter of Pampanga, is showing by example how it is to be practical and saving us Filipino taxpayers millions at that. (Malacañang records show that the Erap administration spent P68 million to refurbish the presidential residence.)

President Macapagal also let slip that a couple of weeks ago, she, First Husband **Mike Arroyo** and their daughter **Luli** went to view "Hannibal." What impressed me was that they watched the movie in a regular theater (what a great plug for Robinson's Place in Ermita), during regular screening hours (from 7 p.m.), on a Sunday night.

She said that since she's a workaholic, she constantly has to remind herself to pace herself and not try to cram in too much into her schedule. She said that on that particular Sunday, she realized she was bored (maybe the First Family should have been watching "The Buzz?"), and the family decided to spend the evening at the movies.

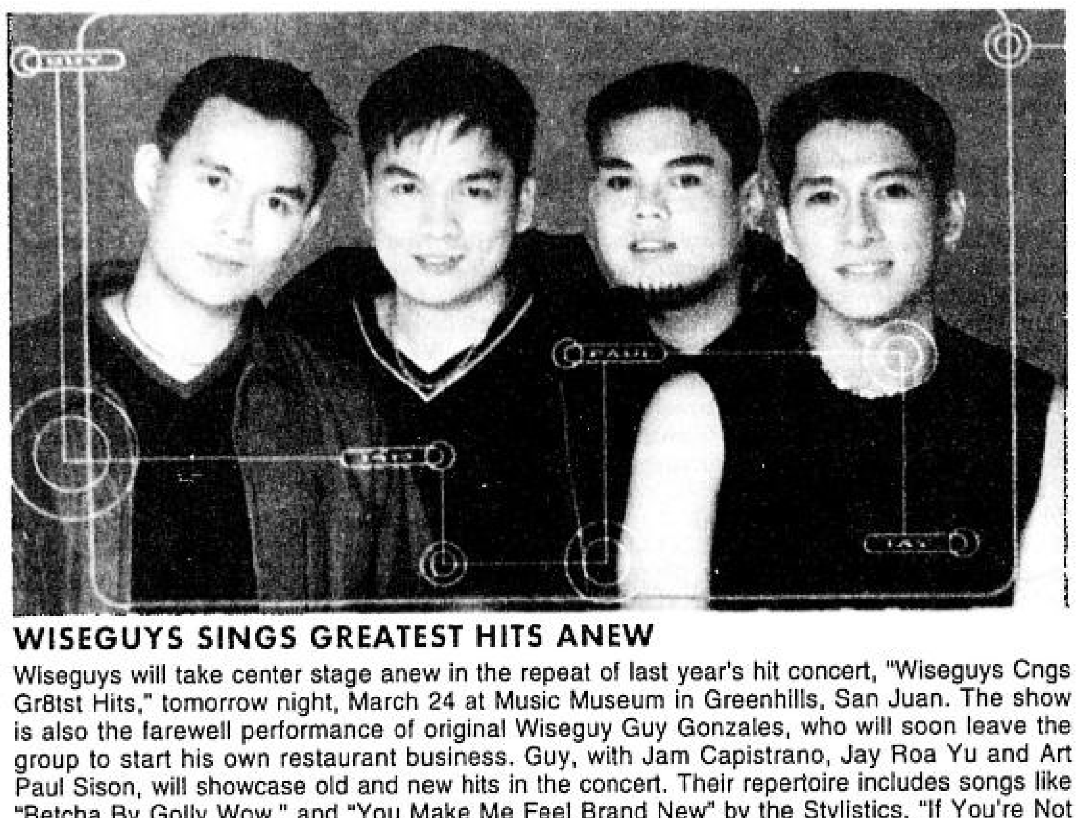
I love the fact that we have a President who doesn't pretend to be one with the masses but is actually unafraid to mix with the masses to watch a movie, and who allows herself to remain human and in touch with what her citizens are up to.

When inquisitive me asked how she had lost weight, 15 pounds in the past three months, President Macapagal said they didn't bring their cook with them to Malacañang, and she no longer practices her former breakfast ritual of downing a glass of milk with Sustagen or Milo (Yup, those were the brands she mentioned) because their family's long-time cook was no longer around to nag her about it.

Unless she has a breakfast meeting, her first meal is lunch and she is rarely given the chance to finish what is served because of all the people who wish to speak with her. The same thing happens at dinner time.

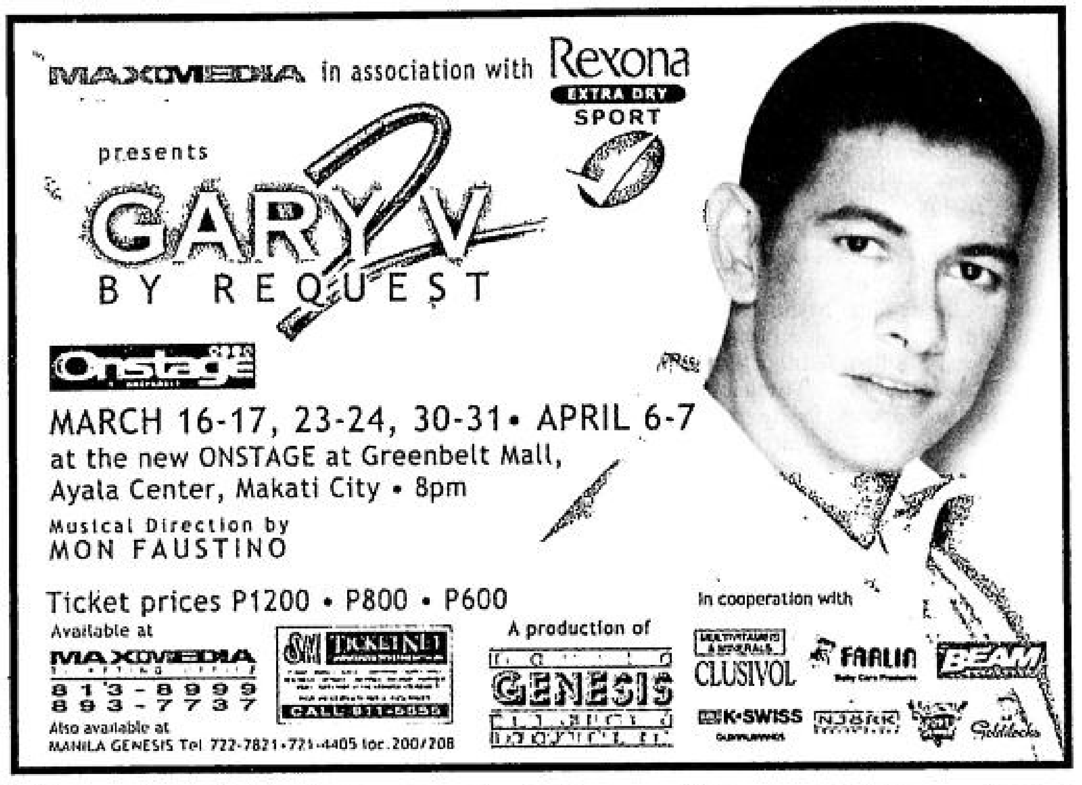
Immediately after our interview, the President gave me a great souvenir. By the magic of digital photography, I left Malacañang with a signed photograph, taken during our taping, of the President and myself complete with the presidential seal and the date of our interview.

That's a wonderful innovation that's sure to capture the hearts of all those fortunate enough to gain an audience with the President.



WISEGUYS SINGS GREATEST HITS ANEW

Wiseguys will take center stage anew in the repeat of last year's hit concert, "Wiseguys Cngs Gr8tst Hits," tomorrow night, March 24 at Music Museum in Greenhills, San Juan. The show is also the farewell performance of original Wiseguy Guy Gonzales, who will soon leave the group to start his own restaurant business. Guy, with Jam Capistrano, Jay Roa Yu and Art Paul Sison, will showcase old and new hits in the concert. Their repertoire includes songs like "Betcha By Golly Wow," and "You Make Me Feel Brand New" by the Stylistics, "If You're Not Here" by Menudo, "On Bended Knees" by Boyz II Men, "My Girl" by the Temptations, "Back for Good" by Take That, "I'll Be Loving You" by New Kids on the Block, "Close To Heaven" by Color Me Badd, "I Swear" by All 4 One, "Forever" by Damage and "Mr. Telephone Man" by New Edition. The group will also sing dance tunes, plus their own hits like "Sabi Mo," "Kwago," "Fallin'" and "First Time I Saw You."



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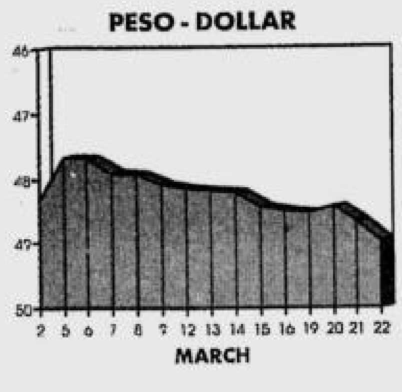

GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

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As of 5 p.m., March 22, 2001

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The US dollar was trading at 123.78 as of 5 p.m., March 22, 2001

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▨ Bangko Sentral cuts rates / B3
▨ Net hot money inflow hits $17.7M / B2
▨ Cocktales / B3

US food giant picks RP as hub for Asia-Pacific

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

AMERICAN food giant Kraft Foods International has tapped the Philippines as the hub for its regional expansion in Southeast Asia, Indochina, India and the Pacific Islands.

These countries are the fastest-growing areas among Kraft Foods' operations in emerging markets worldwide. The Philippines itself accounts for half of Kraft Foods' sales in Southeast Asia. A Filipino, former San Miguel Corp. executive Bienvenido Bautista, is at the helm of Kraft's operations in this part of the world.

Kraft Foods has stepped up its regional expansion following its merger with American food giant Nabisco last year. The merger created one of the world's biggest food concerns second only to Swiss food leviathan Nestle.

Kraft Food Philippines Inc. president and general manager Ramiro M. Cruz said sales were expected to jump by 45 percent to P4.5 billion this year from P3.1 billion. Roughly 13 percent of this year's sales will come from Nabisco products such as Oreo, Chips Ahoy, and Ritz crackers.

Cruz said the company's growth this year would be spurred by beefing up its sales organization and integrating Nabisco with Kraft. Kraft's products are Tang powdered juice drink, Kraft and Eden cheese, Philadelphia cream cheese and Toblerone chocolates.

Kraft Foods is the food subsidiary of the Philip Morris group, the world's biggest consumer packaged good company, which had previously expressed keen interest in expanding not only its cigarette operations in the country (it is planning to put up a $300-million cigarette factory in Batangas) but also its food and beverage (Miller beer) concerns.

Don Harris, vice president for corporate affairs strategy of Philip Morris International, said:"Our vision for the food business is clear. First we aim to become the undisputed leader in powdered soft drinks in Southeast Asia. Second, we intend to grow our leadership position in the cheese category. And third, we intend to advance our already strong presence in the sugar and confectionery segments." Philip Morris' first investment in Asean was made in the Philippines in the 1950s.

Philip Morris is also looking forward to the implementation of the Asean Free Trade Area by the year 2004 (when all duties are expected to fall to zero to 5 percent) to boost demand and intra-trading in the region.

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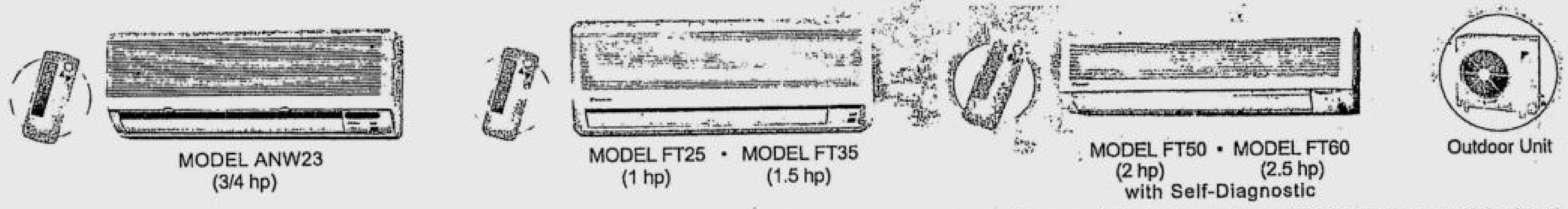

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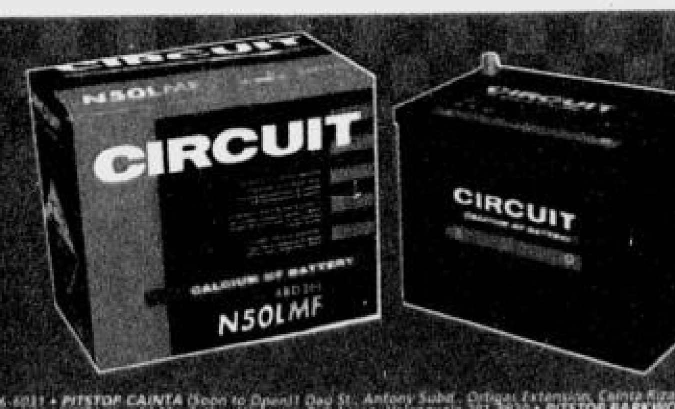

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Net hot money inflow hit $17.7M in Jan-Feb

By Clarissa S. Batino

UNCERTAINTIES over the legitimacy of the Macapagal administration drove hot money out of the country in February, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas figures showed.

The BSP data showed that foreign portfolio investments infused into the system during the month amounted to only $120.9 million while the outflow reached $134.6 million, or a net outflow of $13.7 million.

However, the 13-0 Supreme Court decision affirming the legitimacy of the new government, issued in the first week of March, is expected to again boost portfolio investment inflow into the country starting this month. BSP data showed that the court ruling had convinced foreign investors to start buying back local stocks and government securities since the second week of the month.

The $13.7 million in net outflow last February was more than offset by the $31.4 million in net inflow in January bringing the first two-month figures to a net inflow of $17.7 million.

In the first two months of the year, portfolio investment inflow reached $334.7 million while $317 million worth of hot money left the country.

Last year, some $708.1 million in portfolio investments went out of the country while only $662.2 million came in leading to a net portfolio outflow of $45.5 million. This was due to the political uncertainties particularly at the height of the "Juetengate" scandal involving the former president.

The stock market and the local currency reflected strong recovery in the first few days of the new Macapagal administration.

The peso rebounded to 47.50 to $1 on Jan. 19, from a low of 54.79 to $1, following the defection of the Armed Forces to the Macapagal camp.

Foreign portfolio investments refer to purchases by non-residents of stocks listed in the local stock market, government securities and money market instruments as well as peso deposits funded by inward remittances of foreign exchange from overseas.

Analysts said investors had opted to stay in the sidelines last month on concerns over how the Supreme Court would resolve the issue of the Macapagal administration's legitimacy.

The fear was still reflected in the first week of March as $23.2 million worth of hot money went out even as $19.6 million came in. By the second week, confidence appeared to have returned following the 13-0 decision of the high court and pushed portfolio investments to infuse $39.2 million.

SINGKIT's meals stick to the basic chicken, pork, beef and seafood choices,

Chinese food firm delivers good, hot meals in 30 min.

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

SUCCESS STORY

EATING out for lunch was not so difficult for working people up to about the late 1980s. Traffic was not so bad, parking was easy, the workload was not so heavy and even the weather was not too harsh.

But corporate life has drastically changed since then. Traffic within Makati alone can be so bad that it takes 30 minutes to get to the next corner and maybe even another 30 minutes to get a parking slot.

It is also not so unusual to work through lunch as deadlines prevent many people from going through the trouble of going out of their buildings and eat lunch within the one-hour break.

Leo Wassmer III knew all about the frazzled corporate life in Makati as he was one of those who ended up eating bad food because it was the only kind available. If he wanted to have his food delivered, he had to shell out at least P150 per order.

He thought to himself that there must be a better way to get good food during lunch, so he came up with Singkit in 1991, which he called the "friendly Chinese neighborhood store."

Wassmer patterned Singkit—which meant "chinky eyed" in Filipino—after the food delivery service chains in New York where he stayed for seven years. Just like the leading outlets in New York, Singkit delivered food fresh, fast and at affordable prices (tel. nos. 816-1269 and 631-7877).

"I thought that it would work because people were looking for good food that they can eat even with the short lunch break, which is why we thought of a good delivery service. We offer food that is freshly cooked and can offer value for money," Wassmer said.

Wassmer and his family poured their life savings into the first Singkit outlet along Pasong Tamo in Makati as they strongly believed in the business proposition of the delivery service.

"It was really a make or break decision, but we were happy that it was immediately patronized by the office workers. The business picked up immediately, and we were then able to put up a second outlet in the Ortigas area," Wassmer said.

Wassmer decided to sell Chinese food because of the wide variety, and Filipinos loved the cuisine. The taste was modified to suit the Filipino palate.

Wassmer attributes the patronage of the Singkit service for the past 10 years to the quality of the food. Singkit does not have a very long menu and has decided to stick to the tried and tested viands that employees are willing to eat everyday.

"We purposely kept our menu short because we thought that employees in a hurry want the basic items. They have a choice between pork, beef, vegetables, chicken and seafood. We also have large portions so that people can share. The food comes out to about P50 per person," he said.

Wassmer also stresses that Singkit does not use MSG that many Chinese food restaurants put in the food for the added flavor and that the food is not merely heated but cooked after the order is placed.

"We also have the policy that the food should be delivered hot and fresh within 30 minutes," Wassmer said.

Singkit initially concentrated on the corporate market but eventually extended its marketing campaign to include residential areas.

Wassmer explains that there is also an unserved demand in the market for quick food for dinner, especially since many working parents do not have the strength left after a hard day's work to cook food for the family.

"We have TV dinners and people can also order Singkit food for the movies and for baon to the kids the next day," he said.

Singkit also came up with party packages for those after-work parties, impromptu gatherings and working meetings.

"Our idea for Singkit is to simply provide good food and fast. We have been doing it for the past 10 years and we are looking forward to at least 10 more," he said.

RP adopts plan for garment sector survival

TRADE and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas yesterday said the government would assist chief executives of garments manufacturing companies in implementing key strategies that would further improve chances of victory against global rivals in a post-quota world.

Roxas said the job security of at least half a million people depended on the continued ability of garments manufacturers as combatants for a better position, a better share or new territory in the global marketplace.

The industry's generals, he said, continued to differentiate their high-quality products from those of their competitors to secure a sustainable competitive advantage

The companies aim to make the local industry more viable particularly when the United States, Canada and other quota-setting countries lift the quota system by 2005, he said.

The CEOs themselves developed and presented their "key factors for development" to Roxas during a CEO forum last Monday. The forum was organized by the Garments and Textile Export Board and various associations in the textile and garments industry.

Roxas said the government would work closely with the industry's senior executives in implementing specific action programs supporting the strategies to harness the massive forces of change.

The CEOs said their strategies covered export and image promotion, trade information and market research, training and manpower development, and technological applications.

In export and image promotion, the CEOs would seek to firmly position the industry as socially responsive, globally competitive and updated on latest trends.

RP trade gap with Finland widens due to Nokia imports

By Rocky Nazareno

WITH Nokia phones flooding a growing and constantly changing information technology market, Finland is now enjoying a lopsided trade balance with the Philippines.

This was indicated in figures culled by the Department of Trade and Industry that showed that the country's exports to Finland for the period Jan. to Oct. 2000 amounted to only $21.780 million. The amount was not even 10 percent of the $329.489 million of Philippine imports from Finland. The bulk of which were Nokia cellular phones.

Finland is home to Nokia, one of the world's leading cellular phone companies.

No less than Finnish Secretary of State Jukka Valtasaari acknowledged this disparity in a meeting here with his Philippine counterpart, Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Lauro L. Baja Jr., on March 19.

The Finn official was the first high-ranking European official who came to the Philippines after the Abu Sayyaf extremist group kidnapped foreign hostages, mostly Europeans, in Sipadan Island, Malaysia and held them hostage in Jolo, Sulu.

During his four-day official visit here, Valtasaari also paid courtesy calls on Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. and Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

Valtasaari also gave a briefing on recent developments in the IT sector in Finland and its impact on RP-Finland bilateral talks.

"(The lopsided trade balance) is true because you import so much of the IT equipment. Your importation is based on your needs and Finland seems to be able to fulfill that," Valtasaari said.

And since the Philippines has a "very open market," Valtasaari also pointed out that the development of the IT industry would be so rapid that it would be hard for the Philippines to match Finland's exportation to the country.

But Valtasaari noted that Philippine IT and manufacturing industries may also be reaping from the swift changes in the industry.

He said Nokia has two production lines and some of their components were actually imported from the Philippines.

"So you see, you could be earning (foreign) currency from other countries and not from us," he said.

In a bid to give the Philippines a more level playing field in the exchange of business and commerce, Valtasaari said the Finnish government "has adopted a policy in terms of offering work (for Filipinos in Finland)."

"We might have to (adopt the policy) soon," he said.

Valtasaari explained that while "Finland was producing more engineers per capita than any other country, it won't be sufficient in the long run."

"We have a lot of international markets. This will be an opportunity for your youngsters," Valtasaari said.

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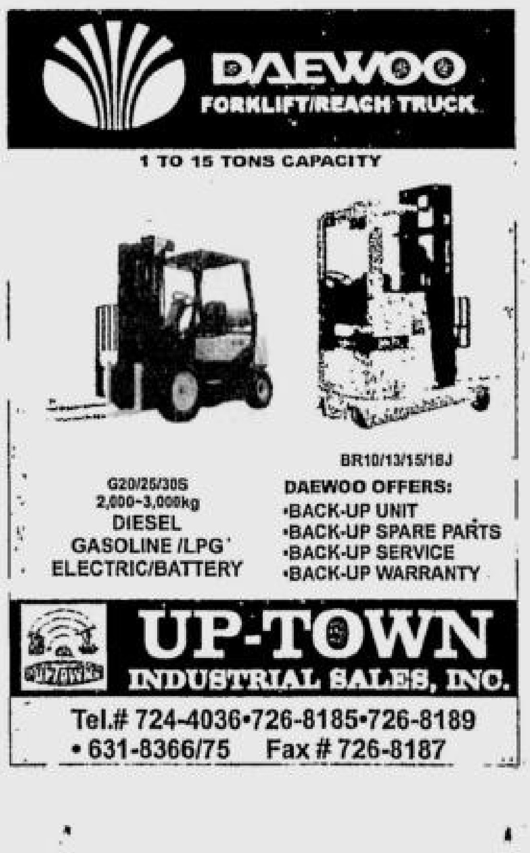

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Slimming down

COCKTALES

By Victor C. Agustin

A COMBINATION of changing consumer tastes and slimmer customer wallets are forcing large restaurants to shrink floor sizes as well.

Over at the El Pueblo restaurant row in Ortigas, the American chain TGIF has sent word to its landlord that it wants to give up its second floor while Thai restaurant Flavours and Spices has likewise sent notice that it wants to cut down its leased space.

The good news is, the freed spaces mean there would be room for a Chinese noodle shop and the likes of Pancake House, eating establishments that El Pueblo wants to attract to shed its "*mahal*" (expensive) image, said Miguel Ortigas Jr., president of PRHC Property Managers Inc.

Like ducks to water, the budget-conscious corporate crowd of Ortigas have been flocking to the incongruously named Congo Grille, which serves Pinoy *ihaw-ihaw* food in a safari camp setting, also within El Pueblo.

An outgrowth from its original ABS-CBN location, Congo Grille has been packing them in since it opened in December despite of, or is it because of, its bad acoustics.

But if you take a closer look, Congo Grille, like Tom Cruz and Gerry's Grille that have mushroomed elsewhere, are but the upscale and family-oriented reincarnation of the *ihaw-ihaw*/ beer joints that were popular in the seventies.

It is something similar to what has been happening to Shakey's, according to Ortigas, where the Prietos have been quietly buying back the franchises and shedding the beer-house image that some Shakey's outlets, particularly those in the Malate, Ermita and the University Belt areas, had taken on during the eighties.

Over at Greenbelt, a similar culinary shift has also been taking place. Gone is the sprawling Triple V outlet, replaced by pocket-sized outlets that share common dining area to retain the family/group-get-together atmosphere.

Unfortunately, the redevelopment and the reduced corporate entertainment budget have also taken a toll on Mario's, the Baguio-based steak house, as well as its sister Beverly Hills Deli, on the park side of Greenbelt.

In case you have not visited the area lately, both familiar landmarks have disappeared. Which raises the question, what fate awaits the humongous Tony Roma's at the corner?

Italianni's, the other large restaurant at the other corner, is branching out to Glorietta IV minus the restaurant.

In the hope of catching the bandwagon, Italianni's is opening a bakery and café amid the proliferation of Starbucks, Seattle's Best, Figaro, Theobrama, Area, and Home within the corridor.

A sign of the times. For the price of a cup of coffee, these joints give the Annie Batungbacals of Makati the illusion of upscale dining without the sticker shock.

Short takes

- THE OVERNIGHT makeover of a boutique chain that was the trendsetter in the seventies and the eighties has apparently failed to camouflage its having lost the famed market touch. Go visit its Greenbelt branch and see what we mean.
- IF you want a quiet date, the place to go to is The Fort. Le Souffle seems to be holding on its own, while the remaining bars/restaurants in the strip are dipping into their capital just to maintain presence.

Heard through the grapevine

IF you are looking for authentic Forbes/Dasma previously owned items, the place to go to is the third floor of the DTI building on Buendia.

A charity bazaar a la Salvation Army's, to benefit the Santuario de San Antonio Parish, has been started there, with the blessing of Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II.

One of the first donors is socialite Carolyn Masibay.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Gov't exploring new schemes to help SMEs

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry is asking the country's financial wizards to come up with innovative ideas that would help small- and medium-scale enterprises gain more access to affordable financing.

Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II said he met with officials and members of the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (Finex) to explore new channels to finance the operating and expansion requirements of SMEs.

Roxas noted that while there was roughly P100 billion worth of funds allocated by private banks, government financial institutions and pension funds for SME lending, these were practically useless because enterprises have been having difficulty getting approval for their loans because of tight collateral requirements.

Roxas cited the billions of funds earmarked by banks to meet agri-agra requirements, the P5-billion IOUs raised by the National Development Co., the P10-billion SME fund from the Social Security System and Government Service Insurance System, and the P2 billion from Small Business Guaranty Fund Corp.

Roxas said he expected Finex to come up with its proposals within a month's time.

SMEs have been griping about the dearth in financing for the past four years after banks were forced to tighten their lending requirements to protect the system from further loan defaults and bankruptcy arising from the fallout from the Asian financial crisis.

SMEs complained that they unduly bore the brunt of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' decision to impose more prudent lending policies such as stricter collateral requirements and the rise in interest rates. With lending drying up, a number of SMEs were forced to close shop due to liquidity problems.

Aside from lending to SMEs, Roxas said the DTI and Finex were also looking for ways to provide low-cost funding to exporters, such as using the balance of the NDC IOUs which would mature in two and a half years.

However, Roxas said that conduit banks should bear part of the risks of lending to exporters whom he described as good borrowers with good earnings stream.

Bangko Sentral cuts rates

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday brought down its key policy rates anew by 50 basis points effective today to match the reduction in US short-term interest rates on Tuesday.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said apart from the decision of the US Federal Reserve to cut rates, monetary authorities also took into consideration signs of a continued weakness of global economies which could threaten the Philippines if not addressed appropriately.

The decline in the BSP's overnight borrowing to 10 percent and overnight lending to 12.25 percent should stimulate growth in credit and enable businesses to expand.

The BSP's latest rates cut brings to five percentage points the total reduction in interest rates since December last year.

Buenaventura noted that recent data showing a continued decline in consumer spending and a steep fall in share prices in the US reflected waning consumer confidence. At the same time, Japan's economic recovery remained slow to take hold.

"These developments pose constraints on the Philippines' growth objectives," the BSP chief said.

Monetary authorities also welcomed a tapering trend toward the second half of the year which bolstered their resolve to bring down interest rates further.

Buenaventura said that expectations of lower interest rates in the second semester have made threats of higher prices less pronounced.

"The latest cut in federal funds rate by the US Fed allows scope for further easing of the monetary policy setting. This would maintain yield differentials between domestic and foreign interest rates," he said.

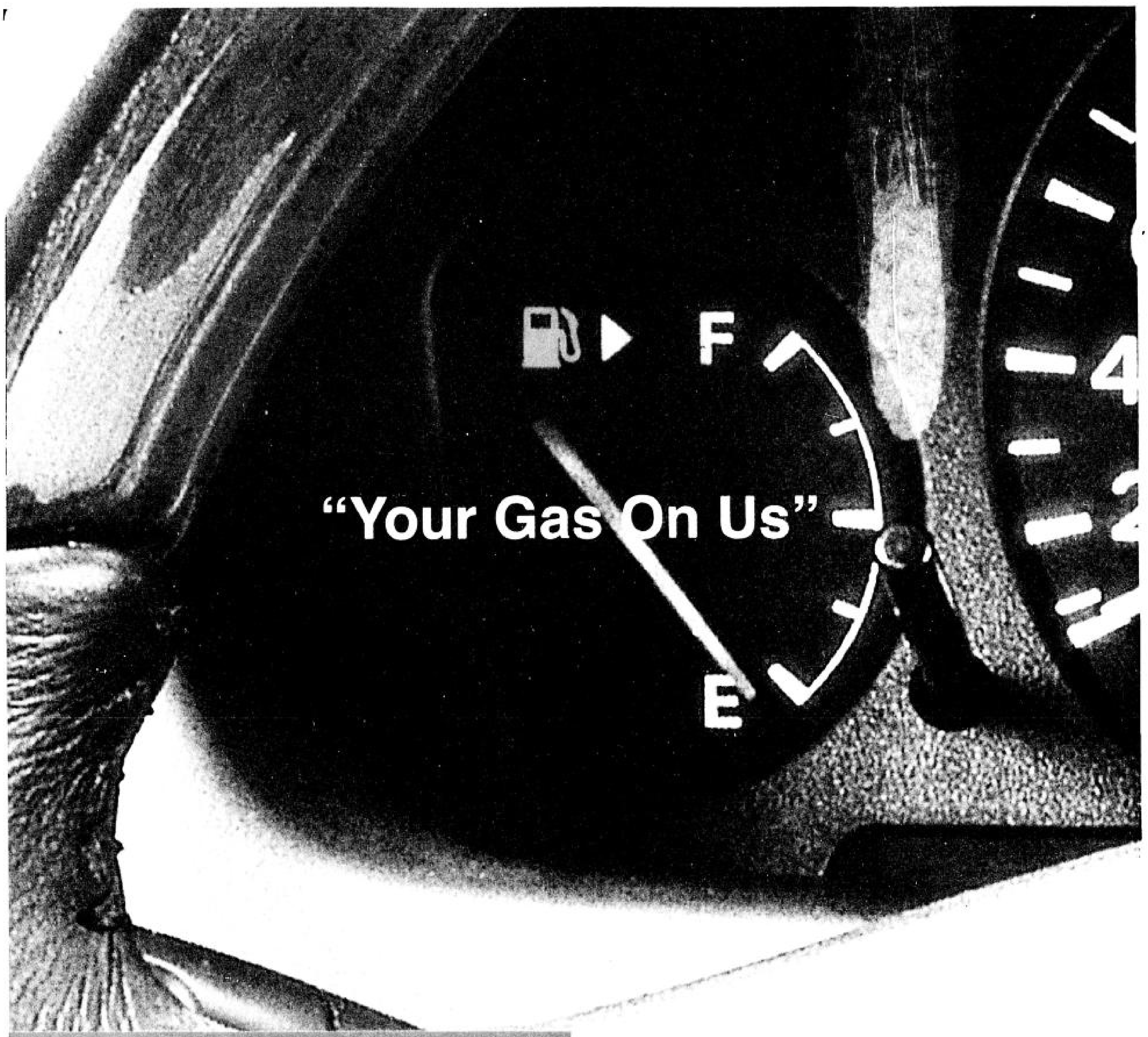
The BSP earlier said it was waiting for two signals, a declining inflation trend and a cut in US short-term rates, before it would seriously discuss reducing its policy rates further.

The central bank's forecast of a stronger peso this year also reinforced the resolve of monetary authorities to bring down interest rates.

Buenaventura had projected the peso to strengthen to 44 to $1 and average at 46 to $1 this year. Analysts, however, believed the local currency would average at 47.50 to $1 at best.

Treasury bill rates are expected to react favorably to the central bank's rate cut announcement although the BSP governor said the central bank's rate cut had been factored in by the markets.

The government stands to benefit from lower rates as its cost of borrowings, as reflected by the treasury bill rates, tracks the movement of the central bank's overnight rates.



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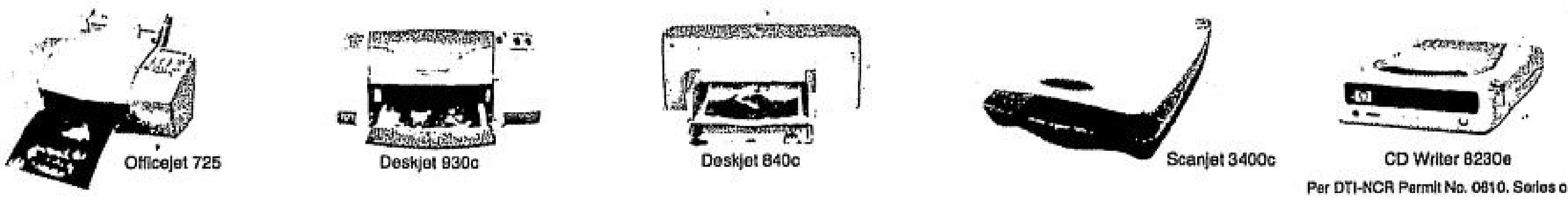

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0810. Series of 2001.

Local IT company hooks up with Tata group of India

By Doris C. Dumlao

MINING firm-turned-information technology upstart Imperial Resources Inc. has tied up with the Tata group, India's largest conglomerate renowned for its IT empire, in order to go full-blast into the IT education business.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Imperial corporate secretary Vicente Acsay said Mumbai-based Tata Infotech Ltd. had entered into a licensing agreement with Philippine Cyber College Corp., a 99-percent owned subsidiary of Imperial.

"Under the agreement, IT know-how, coursewares, educational materials and training of PCC's teachers and instructors will be supplied by TIL to PCC," Acsay said.

PCC, in turn, would pay TIL know-how fee and royalty based on tuition fees collected. The agreement would be good for three years and subject to renewal by mutual consent.

The Tata group is a pioneer in the field of software development, networking, hardware manufacture, software distribution and education. Its education division offers content development, courseware delivery including e-commerce, using the medium of computer-based training, Web and classroom teaching to more than 30,000 students every year.

Tata Infotech has offices worldwide including the United States, South Africa, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Germany, Tokyo and Australia. In India, its offices are located at Mumbai, Bangalore, Calcutta, Chennai, New Delhi, Noida, Pune, Goa, Ahmedabad, Cochin and Hyderabad.

Acsay said that during the next few weeks, PCC teachers would be undergoing additional intensive training with Cisco and TIL.

"Soon after these additional intensive training, PCC will be offering courses to its students to become certified by Cisco and certifications in other hardware, software, networking and IT-related courses like Microsoft, Oracle, Unix, Intel, Linux and others," Acsay said.

"With multiple certifications, our teachers and graduates have superior career advancement opportunities locally and abroad," he said.

Acsay also noted that PCC would be actively participating in the poverty alleviation program of Bulacan by facilitating high-paying job opportunities.

Imperial announced a shift in its primary business from mining to IT and an increase in its capital stock to P4 billion from P700 million in May last year. Speculations about Imperial's plan to join the IT bandwagon have generated strong investor interest in its shares in early 2000. Its stock was the biggest gainer during the first quarter of 2000, advancing by 415.63 percent to P0.0825.

Earlier, Imperial entered into a share-swap deal that would allow it to acquire majority control of Web Link Philippines Inc., an Internet service provider in southern Philippines.

Swiss firm puts up ₱200-M Laguna plant

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

SWISS industrial kitchen maker Franke Contract group has invested nearly P200 million for a factory in Laguna which is being harnessed to meet the growing demand for stainless steel food service equipment in East Asia.

In a statement, Franke Contract said it pushed forward with its investments in the Philippines despite the inherent risks in a government that was installed through extra-constitutional means.

Franke Contract plant managing director Balthasar Wicki said that it would "take more than political instability to frighten us from reaching our target."

Franke Contract considers the plant at Carmelray II in Calamba, Laguna, a "strategic step" in keeping up with the rapidly growing demand in East Asia. Franke Contract set up a plant in China in 1999 but apparently this was not enough to fill up demand from quick service restaurant chains such as fast-food giant McDonald's Corp. and casual theme-dining restaurants.

The company chose the Philippines as one of its production bases in the region because of its central location and the Filipino laborer's ingenuity and creativity.

The plant is expected to generate at least 1,000 new jobs. The plant will open in the next five to seven months.

The company said the Philippine plant would not only jack up its output but also cut short the delivery and installation time because of the country's proximity to other Asian countries.

CHAMBER OF THRIFT BANKS OFFICERS

The Chamber of Thrift Banks recently held the induction of its new officers and directors during its 2001 Convention at the Dusit Hotel Nikko. The convention had Bangko Sentral Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes, Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II and Housing Secretary Michael Defensor as guests. Shown in photo are (from left) CTB second vice president Rogerio Panlasigui of Active Bank, BSP's Reyes, CTB president Francisco Magsajo Jr. of RCBC Savings Bank and CTB first vice president Virgilio Morada of Lipa Bank.

DESPITE NASDAQ COLLAPSE

Itogon-Suyoc joins Internet bandwagon

ITOGON-SUYOC Mines Inc., one of the country's oldest mining firms, is joining the bandwagon of local firms migrating into the information technology business notwithstanding the reversal of the technology sector in the United States.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, the company said its stockholders have approved a motion to embark on the IT business "generally covering the field of software, hardware and services in wholesale and/or retail."

But Itogon is joining the IT craze at a time when technology play has become out of flavor in local and international markets, as triggered by the weakening of the Nasdaq, the world's benchmark for technology issues.

Other oil and mining companies have shifted to the IT business early last year just in time to benefit from the IT fever, which then spilled to the local stock market from the US. Among these were Philweb.com (formerly South Seas Natural Resources Inc.), Island Mining and Industrial Corp., Imperial Resources Corp. and Omico Corp.

Itogon-Suyoc was listed in 1975 and principally engaged in the mining and mineral exploration business. It was established 1925. In 1985, Benguet Corp. of the Romualdez family gained 54.4-percent control of the company.

The company was created through the three-way merger of Itogon Mining Co. and Suyoc Consolidated Co. and Palidan-Suyoc's concessions. At present, it continues to mine, search and explore ores and likewise manufactures, sells and produces gold, silver, copper, lead, zinc, platinum, brass and iron.

The local market's appetite for tech stocks peaked in early 2000 as local investors scraped for some opportunities amid the lackluster market weighed down by the BW Resources Corp. price manipulation scandal. The up and coming tech stock sector—consisting of Internet and IT upstarts or wannabes—then stood as the local market's saving grace.

PROPERTY ISSUES UP

Shares slip in cautious trade

SHARES finished lower yesterday as investors continued to exercise caution with no fresh news to spark market interest, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended down 5.33 points, or 0.4 percent, at 1,466.23, adding to a 1.3-percent loss Wednesday. Yesterday's market decline brings the main index loss to 2.7 percent since Tuesday.

Last-minute bargain hunting on select issues helped the market trim down losses incurred in the early part of the session, said BPI Securities assistant vice president Spencer Yap.

The main index fell by as much as 1.3 percent early in trading, partly as a result of the 2.4-percent loss suffered by the Dow Jones Industrial Average Wednesday, said Yap.

Turnover climbed to P420.18 million against Wednesday's P276.98 million. Losers were in a near two-to-one majority over gainers.

The central bank's announcement of a 0.50-percentage-point cut in policy rates shortly before the end of trading was largely ignored by the market, since the news was already discounted, he said.

Yap said the oversold condition of select issues revived investors' appetite.

"This late rally is good, but it's very selective, so we have to see how the other stocks will fare in the coming session," said Yap.

Allan Araullo, vice president of Regina Capital Development, said the market has already factored in the rate cut since the central bank previously indicated it would consider further cuts in interest rates after the US Federal Reserve makes its own reduction in its policy rates.

Apart from the global economic slowdown, the market was also trying to input expectations of weak first quarter corporate earnings in share prices, Araullo said.

The property sector bucked the general trend, with the property index ending 1.42 points, or 0.26 percent, higher at 541.59 points.

But traders attributed the property sector's slight gains to local punters' plays on specific issues rather than an improved outlook in the property market due to lower interest rates.

"It takes more than low interest rates to get the economy going. As long as the global economic outlook, particularly in the United States and Japan, is dismal, we will have difficulty," said Albert Chua, portfolio manager of All Asia Asset Management.

Among the stocks that recovered from recent weakness was Filinvest Land, which ended up 8 centavos at P1.88.

"At least the market isn't as negative as it was in previous sessions, so we may see some bargain hunting Friday," said Yap. *AP, Reuters*

DISCLOSURES

THE SECURITIES and Exchange **Commission** upheld the authority of the Management Committee of **Victorias Milling Co.** to undertake the management of Victorias and to appoint a COO.

* * *

THE BOARD of **1st e-Bank** accepted the resignation of director James Anthony Gallacher. Also, it appointed lawyer Danielle Maria Sales as OIC, in lieu of Grace Dizer. She will be responsible for disclosing any material information or event, and will act as the authorized signatory of all disclosure letters, in the absence of the corporate information officer, lawyer Elmer Nitura. Also, it postponed its annual stockholders' meeting on May 15 to a later date due to the upcoming elections on May 14.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. informed the Exchange that the following have resigned as directors: Mariles Cacho-Romulo, Justice Magdangal Elma and lawyer Ma. Lourdes Rausa-Chan.

* * *

SANITARY Wares Manufacturing Corp. said it was unaware of any information which may have caused the unusual movement in the trading of its shares, except the downward trend of the market.

* * *

IMPERIAL Resources Inc. said it was not in possession nor was it aware of any material information which may have caused the unusual decrease in the value and trading of its securities.

* * *

ALASKA Milk Corp. denied reports that it would lose P350-million income with the expiration of its deal with **Nabisco**. It said the figure refers to revenues from the distribution of Nabisco products. It contributed to only less than 10 percent of the total P3.8 billion revenues of Alaska in 2000.

* * *

CONCRETE Aggregates Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 10, 8 a.m., at the Board Room of Ortigas and Co. Ltd. Partnership, Ortigas Bldg., Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City.

* * *

ITOGON-SUYOC Mines Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 4, 4 p.m., at the Antipolo Ballroom, Valle Verde Country Club, Bo. Ugong, Pasig City.

* * *

SM Prime Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 26, 2 p.m., at the Rizal C Ballroom, Makati Shangri-La Hotel, Makati City.

* * *

SUN Life Financial Services of Canada bought one million common shares of its own stock pursuant to its normal course issuer bid. Those shares will be cancelled shortly.

* * *

THE STOCK and transfer book of **Philippine Trust Co.** shall be closed on April 4, 20 days before the scheduled date of the annual stockholders' meeting on April 24. ***Compiled by Armin P. Adina, PDI Research***

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Thursday, March 22, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	6.2	6.2	5.5	5.6	68,000
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	86	100	86	100	500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	69.5	69.5	69.5	69.5	95,100
China Banking Corp.	620	620	620	620	600
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	50	50	49.5	49.5	52,600
Global Business Bank Inc.	75	75	75	75	1,200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	218	220	215	218	115,820
Prudential Bank	500	500	500	500	110
Philippine National Bank	46	47	45	47	87,800
Phil. Savings Bank	29	30	29	30	14,100
Security Bank Corp.	19.5	19.5	19.5	19.5	300
Union Bank of the Phil.	25	25	25	25	60,400
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	1,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1100	1200	1100	1190	58,130
Sun Life Financial Serv.	850	850	835	840	2,950
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	41.5	41.5	41	41.5	15,900
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.48	0.5	0.47	0.5	1,520,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	695	695	695	695	1,690
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	1,300,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	34,000
Piltel	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	610,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	10,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	755	755	740	740	88,040
Ivantage Corp.	0.95	0.95	0.94	0.94	260,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.048	0.05	0.046	0.05	93,800,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	44	44.5	43	44.5	5,000
Manila Electric Co. B	54.5	55	54.5	55	130,600
Petron Corp.	1.62	1.68	1.58	1.68	4,619,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.85	0.88	0.85	0.88	60,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	0.93	0.99	0.92	0.99	1,110,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.31	0.36	720,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.36	460,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	10,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	10,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11.5	11.75	11.5	11.75	73,000
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	34	34	34	34	237,000
Pancake House, Inc.	1.56	1.76	1.56	1.76	102,000
RFM Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	50,000
San Miguel Corp. A	47	48	47	48	139,600
San Miguel Corp. B	53	53	52.5	52.5	66,600
Universal Robina Corp.	5	5	5	5	300,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	10,000
Ayala Corp.	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.3	1,479,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	187,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12	12	11.5	11.75	2,200
A. Soriano Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	50,000
APC Group Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	370,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	29,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	20,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	30,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	11	10	11	11,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	3,610,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.165	0.165	0.16	0.16	50,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	190,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.37	330,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.12	0.12	1,150,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.98	1.06	0.9	1.06	3,280,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	21.25	21.25	21	21	127,900
Global Equities Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	100,000
Ionics Inc.	11.5	11.5	11.25	11.5	112,500
Ipeople Inc.	0.84	0.85	0.84	0.85	60,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.1	2.12	2.1	2.12	294,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.74	0.74	0.7	0.73	4,430,000
Magnum Holdings Inc.	3	3	3	3	10,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.46	0.48	0.46	0.48	1,810,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	20,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	320,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.29	0.31	5,760,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.42	0.44	50,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	430,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Jardine Davies Inc.	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	900
Music Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	493,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.09	0.09	300,000
Pryce Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	10,000,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	20,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	10.5	11	10.5	11	108,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.43	0.43	0.39	0.4	6,430,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.53	0.55	0.52	0.54	4,370,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	160,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	41	41	41	41	240,100
Equitable PCI Bank-War	3.35	3.55	3.35	3.55	612,000
Jollibee Warrants	11	11.25	11	11.25	12,500
Omico Corporation Warrant	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	30,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,300
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	1,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8	8	8	8	2,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.5	4,683,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.23	0.23	2,490,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	60,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	100,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.32	0.35	0.31	0.35	1,470,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.78	1.88	1.68	1.88	44,104,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.34	260,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	3,000,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.4	4,676,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	300,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.005	0.005	0.0048	0.0048	18,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	500,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	20,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	80,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	3,280,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	22,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	7,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0044	0.0044	0.0042	0.0044	13,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.23	0.23	0.22	0.22	20,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	1,700,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	558,610	113,214,720.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	211,979,330	169,918,930.00
PRO	61,143,000	135,762,820.00
Mining	21,881,000	803,800.00
OIL	44,720,000	328,900.00
GRAND TOTALS :	340,281,940	420,029,170.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	'595.77	DOWN 0.67
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,007.06	DOWN 11.11
PRO	541.59	UP 1.42
Mining	1,178.33	DOWN 35.93
OIL	1.50	DOWN 0.04
All Shares Index	713.07	DOWN 3.70
Composite	1,466.23	DOWN 5.33

NO. OF ADVANCES: 22; NO. OF DECLINES: 40; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 50;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 112 NO. OF TRADES: 2,312

CURRENCIES

March 22, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.115822	1.000000	48.5800
Japan	Yen	0.009044	0.008105	0.3937
United Kingdom	Pound	1.597411	1.431600	69.5471
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.143073	0.128222	6.2290
Switzerland	Franc	0.652451	0.584727	28.4060
Canada	Dollar	0.708459	0.634921	30.8445
Singapore	Dollar	0.625391	0.560475	27.2279
Australia	Dollar	0.548990	0.492005	23.9016
Bahrain	Dinar	2.959898	2.652661	128.8663
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.297521	0.266638	12.9533
Brunei	Dollar	0.623643	0.558909	27.1518
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000107	0.000096	0.0047
Thailand	Baht	0.025233	0.022614	1.0986
UAE	Dirham	0.303807	0.272272	13.2270
Korea	Won	0.000861	0.000772	0.0375
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.896200	43.5374
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.45822	22.2603
France	Franc	0.152450	0.136625	6.6372
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.406678	19.7564
Austria	Schilling	0.072672	0.065129	3.1640
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022216	1.0793
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000463	0.0225
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.150730	7.3225
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.00447	0.2172
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005386	0.2617
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.022216	1.0793
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.137939	55.2811

What matters most to Filipino workers

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

WHETHER you are an employer or an employee, managerial or rank and file, white or blue collar, rich or poor, male or female, adult or young, from the city or the province, you will one day confront yourself with the ultimate question—what matters most to you? In an earlier column, we raised the common dilemma of choosing between career and family and showed our bias in favor of family. You, readers out there, gave me quite a good number of positive feedback. Thus, we now pursue this point further and focus our view on the Filipino workers.

Family over career

You confirmed our view that the family should occupy the prime position in our hierarchy of values. You concurred with me that at the end of the day, we shall be remembered not so much for our academic achievements and career success but mainly for our performance as a spouse, dad, mom, brod or sis. Our loved ones don't care so much about our job promotions or professional advancements. They'd rather stress on the way we relate with the persons who matter most in our lives. It is not difficult to choose between career and family although in the daily struggles that we wage, many of us choose family cerebrally but actually enslave ourselves in work.

Family as top of mind

What is the Filipino workers' hierarchy of values if we include God and country in the usual conflict between job and family? Would you believe that, based on anecdotal testimonies, the family, much more than God, is the strongest motivator of the Filipino workers. When a Filipino husband leaves a young wife to venture into the deserts of Saudi Arabia, don't you concede that he does it for the family? When a wife leaves her spouse and growing kids in order to work as housemaid in Singapore, she takes a very high risk and accepts a very great sacrifice, but isn't she doing all that for the family? When a young man ventures into foreign oceans to work as a seaman, isn't he doing it for a sick mother or a younger brother in school? When a young girl dances her way to Japan and risks her virtues, isn't she doing it for a father in jail or a sister who needs a surgical operation?

When a worker is absent here, isn't it due to KBL—"Kasal," "Binyag," or "Libing"? Isn't it family pressures that lead employees to be absent-minded, less productive and at times, neglectful of duties? On a more positive note, isn't a supportive family—a wife who gives him constant inspiration and children who don't give him worries—a great help to a workingman? Don't you think that the Filipino worker succeeds or fails in work mainly because of his family?

God as a strong motivator

Considering the Filipinos' strong faith in God and their well-entrenched religious adherence, would you be surprised to find out that, to a good number of Filipino workers, their work attitude, habits and patterns of behavior in the workplace are greatly influenced by their concepts of God and their understanding of religion-based work ethics and morality? Don't you realize that most of our legal holidays are religion-based—Christmas, Good Friday, Maundy Thursday and a host of fiestas in different localities?

When workers go on leave, if the reason was not family, wasn't it religious? They either have to go home to Bohol to attend their town fiesta, or to join the Sinulog in Cebu, or to be in the fluvial parade in Peñafrancia, to fulfill a vow to pray in Manaoag, or join a pilgrimage to Antipolo. Aren't workers attending the El Shaddai prayer rallies and thus cannot be in the graveyard shift? Aren't Iglesia adherents leaving work early on Thursday to do their "*samba*" while the Seventh Day Adventists refuse to work on Saturdays?

The job as source of life

Do you realize that many Filipino workers look at their jobs not just a work or occupation? It is to them a source of income, a means of livelihood. From it come the food, shelter and clothing for the family, tuition fee for the kids, medical care and simple entertainment. And since the family is to them, the most important, job is indeed valuable. It is the means by which they concretize their love and concern for their family. It is the source of taxes to the country. From the job comes whatever material offerings the workers can bring to God and their patron saints.

Wouldn't it thus be logical to conclude that workers who don't value their jobs don't have very strong commitments to their families or don't have the faith in and the proper attitude toward God?

Country as the weakest factor

Isn't it unfortunate that in the Filipino workers' hierarchy of motivators, the country occupies the lowest rank? In their psyche, a sense of nationhood is not well-developed. While they are indeed fantastic family men and women, they value their loved ones even much more than God, while they respect God and give importance to their jobs, isn't it quite intriguing that many Filipino workers don't have high respect for the nation.

If they were in Edsa, it is generally opined that they were there for reasons other than a sense of patriotism. Many were there because they hated the incumbent President. Their hatred springs from a sense of outrage due to the former leaders' abuses and perversions that offended their moral values. They were there because a religious leader summoned them or a business interest is at stake or family ties are involved, not for the country no matter how they pretend so.

Family, God, job and country

What matter most to the Filipino workers are family, God, job and country, in this order. The two strong reasons why Communism cannot succeed in the Philippines are family and religion, not the love for the Republic.

In this country, you can attack the government and lambast officials left and right. But the Filipino workers will hit you back if you start undermining their family or insulting their beliefs in God.

(For comments, you can reach the writer at the following e-mail address: josephus.jimenez@pcppi.com.ph)

Oil sector lures ₱13B in new investments

By Ronnel W. Domingo

ENERGY Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho yesterday said the oil industry has become one of the most attractive investment areas in the country with P13 billion in new investments infused as of last year.

"We have seen a total of P13 billion in fresh investments infused for the establishment of service stations and storage distribution facilities," Camacho said.

Speaking before members of the Philippine Institute of Petroleum, Camacho said the local oil deregulation process has been doing good so far.

He cited the entry of 62 new industry players since the Oil Deregulation Law was passed in 1998.

The new players have cornered about 10 percent of the market in only two years. Thailand, whose experience in deregulation the government is closely watching, took four years to achieve the same.

New industry players have gained significant ground in the liquefied petroleum gas market cornering about 25 percent.

Camacho said the deregulation of the oil industry was "clearly working as intended."

He also assured the oil firms there would be no changes in the rules midstream, saying "I have been in the private sector long enough to know that the best way to nurture (the industry) is to allow market forces to come into play."

Earlier, Philippine National Oil Co. chair Sergio F. Apostol created concerns among industry players over possible government interference when he announced that he had solicited the Big Three's pledge not to raise prices until after the May 14 elections.

For their part, officials of Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Caltex Philippines Inc. clarified that their prices would depend on market conditions and that trends in the price of Dubai crude did not call for immediate price hikes.

However, Camacho said the government would actively monitor both local and international industry trends to make sure retail paces reflect these trends.

"We will keep a tight watch over compliance to quality safety and environmental standards of products and services," he said.

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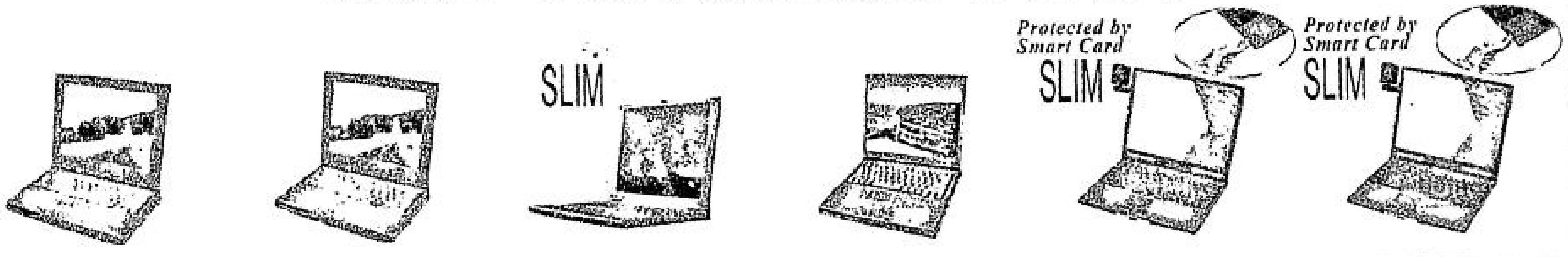

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LIPAT BAHAY 713-0878/716-9177

LIPAT BAHAY
w/5 helpers 24 hrs. M.M.
prov'l svs 4W 6W 10W
7 1 2 8 8 6 1
7 3 1 5 7 5 0

LIPAT BAHAY
24 hrs. mover MM/Provincial
Tel. No. 6315180/6315182/
6329850/6329845/
6316497/6316496

•LIPAT•731-6833

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMM'L/RESDL

OTHER AREAS

GUEVENTHOMES
BACOOR near SM

P10T-17T/mo. NO D/P
531-1384 • 531-0390/95
(0915) 704-3888
www.guevent.com

MANILA

2335m² Soler nr Avenida Recto P70M 3730597 Noli

MANDALUYONG

509m² LOT Area w/office & Whouse Parking LOT For 5 Vans Call 531-1151

PASAY

F-B Harrison Pasay Comm'l Prop. LA900sqm 534-7949

PASIG

Pasig nr. Market 3sty bldg. w/Income 5.5M 928-3267

QUEZON CITY

MAYON QC w/6Units 480m² P22T/m² • 928-3267

Panay QC 1000m² w/2Hse 2Sty N Bung 26T/m² 928-3267

Kamias w/Comm'l Units 600m² P15M • 928-3267

Visayas Comm'l Unit 2Sty Lot 75m² 3.2M • 928-3267

QC Condo Res/ Off/ Coml
31-76m² P1-3.5M 50T Res 30%DP ; Bal 3yrs w/o Int. Call 9137632 9124453 6318651 loc.110 & 125

HOUSE & LOT

ALABANG

Alabang Hills LA450m² 3BR Den Nice P10M • 533-5525

AYALABANG 2Sty LA415 FA196 9.5M Only 534-7949

AYALABANG 2Sty LA450 FA 400 4B 4TB Only 534-7949

Ayala Alabang 2sty 3Bed 3TB 8.5M Only 534-7949

LAS PINAS

BFRes 180m² 3br 2tb 1.6M 1.8M 2.5M 8726951 • 8723140

BFRes 300m² Cor. 3BR 2TB 3.3M 872-6951 • 872-3140

BFRes BNew 2Stry Corner 4BR 4TB 2.9M 872-6951

Auburn Place New 2Stry 3BR 2.2M Terms 872-6951

Auburn Place 2.2M 2stys 3br 2tb new Term 8747234

Manuela 4A 192 @5700/m² Neg. • Tel.# 874-7234

BFRV 2.7M Neg 3br 3tb 2carport LA186 874-7234

BFRV 2.7M Neg LA341 2BR 1TB FA70 • 874-7234

BFRV 2.2M 2sty 3br 2tb Single Terms • 874-7234

BFRV 2.2M 3br 2tb Phone Neg LA144 FA90 874-7234

BFRV 2.6M Neg 2sty 4br 3tb B-New 874-7234 Pepe

BFRV 2.5M 3br 2tb Phone 2Carport LA180 • 874-7234

Pilar BNew 2Stry 4br 3TB Nice P2.7M • 872-6951

BFRes BNew 2Stry 4BR 3TB 3.8M Terms 872-6951

LPinas New 2Stry 3BR 2TB 2.2M Terms • 872-6951

LAS PINAS/ BACOOR
2-4 BRS,Cash or Term
874-0486 • 874-0487
873-5949 • 874-2175

MAKATI

Holiday Inn Eaton Makati Good Income Tel 928-1469

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

MAKATI

Magallanes Subd. - Makati H&L LA367 3BR 643-5313

Magallanes LA612 FA550 2sty 5B Den 7cg 534-7949

MANILA

Binondo old/hse190m² 11M Near Lavazarez 413-4411

MARIKINA

Grnlnd bnew 3br 2M 9487112

MKNA HGTS 2BR DPX 60m² 500T 941-5112 / 521-0852

PASIG

VALLE VERDE
4BR 4T&B DEN
2 car garage
in 430m² lot
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Direct Buyers Only

Nice Valle Verde w/Pool 4BR Elegant 1277-37052

Valle Verde 4BR House New w/Pool • 635-6722

Pasig City H&L A-250m² P2.5M • 534-6610 Jojo

Psg Bo Kapitolyo H&L New 5BTB 24hrs H'O • 643-5313

Valle V Instlment 924-8765

Valle Verde LA840 FA600 4br 6pkg Elegant 681-2457

VVerde 5 LA420 3BR P20M 1100 Cor P39M • 723-2391

QUEZON CITY

** Nr Ateneo 4M 10wn Pbuild as /Spec w/View 6453731

Villa Paramita Scout Boromeo nr Bohol 9283267

Baler St. QC L-3500/m² Whse 18T/m² Tel 928-1469

Cubao - 2Hses & Lot P16M LA360sqm FA360sqm Tel. 913-2224 Susan Rush

Greenmeadows LA805 FA650 6br 8pkg Jacuzzi 681-2457

•GSIS Hills C-5/Quirino Hi. New 3.9M LA300 4br 7215226

HL White Plains P25M-15 & 11.5M 911-7940

U.P. Village QC LA400m²-600m² 6M-15M • 533-5525

D. Tuazon SMH LA411/m² Tel. 928-1469 • 453-4877

Roosevelt Q.C. LA624m² wHse 928-1469 • 453-4877

Maginhawa U.P. Vll H&L LA650sqm P10M 633-4107

Mayon St. SMH. QC A-960m² 534-6610 • 818-8569 Jojo

METROVILLA QC 8432441

NEW MANILA 1481-114621

nr ATENEO 4M&up 6453731

RENT OR SALE
2Bdrm-FF Burgundy Plaza Across Ateneo T#927-4517

Samat St. w/5sty Bldg 600 SMH QC Whse 9298376

SCT AREA 5BR NEW 2420922

Sta. Mesa Hts 240m² 3BR 3TB Mds Rm 5M 931-7898

Forest Hills Fairway Lot 590m² Nice Loc. 534-7949

E. Abada/Ateneo P24T/m² 1,500 10BR • 721-5226

Xavierville New Duplex 1481-114621

RIZAL

Birmingham Place Cainta 260m² 2.6M Rush 6334107

FILINVEST EASTVILLE
Bung 3br2tb FA115 LA132 2kit. Cash/Term 677-1955

PROVINCIAL

AYALA Sta. Rosa (Phenix) LA205 FA159sqm 534-7949

Tagatay 249.5m 2sty BNew Tel.# 453-4877

Tagaytay L286m² 2Sty Bnew 453-4877 • 928-1469

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

CASIMIRO TOWNHOMES
Habay, Bacoor, Cavite
near SM Bacoor
Initial DP: P15,000

WESTVILLE HOMES
Ligas, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P15,000
FORTE REALTY
2/F Princess Bldg, Esteban St,
Legaspi Village, Makati City
872-7603 871-8318
873-0787 810-7297
810-8019 815-2144
810-7183
Welcome Brokers & Agents

OTHER AREAS

CanyonWoods Bingas 7.5M ownerlvngSF0917-8143792

•LAGUNA BEL-AIR 3•
LA120m² up 2-3BR w/prkg
Joann 912-5775

LOT

KALOOCAN

,24.9 HECTARES P2T/sqm ROGER • 652-0227

Deparo Cal. City 5000m² VLot P3500T/m² 453-4877

LAS PINAS

BFRV 180m² @ 6,500/m² Near Philam • 874-7234

BF Resort 169m² 176m² 180m² 6500/m² • 874-7234

BFRV 176m² @6500/m² neg near BlumField 874-7234

Manuela 4A Thru Verdant 192m² @5700 Neg 8747234

BFRV nr Abel Mosce 169m² 6500 • 874-7234

MANDALUYONG

9-de Pebrero Near Shaw A-1500m² • 534-6610 Jojo

•Nr Shaw Addition Hills• 4000m² Thse Proj 721-5226

MARIKINA

Marikina Heights 1860m² P6.5M Neg. • 931-7898

MUNTINLUPA

Susana Heights 525sqm Rush Sale Pgr 1277-37052

VL Susaba Hts Subd. 500-890m² @P7T/m² 911-7940

PARANAQUE

303m² Teoville T-8268985

3500m²LA Sucat/Lease P140K 2000m²FA T-8268985/8294790

South Admiral Vill Lot 480sqm Pager 1277-37052

Sucat 214sqm •532-5933•

Sucat V/L 724m² w/Old Hse at rear 22M neg. 643-5313

VL Multinational 600m² Terms Acceptble 911-7940

PASIG

**Greenwoods P5,100 Only w/Tambak • 671-4421

QUEZON CITY

** Capitol Dist 600sm 3800/sm 645-3731

E. Rodriguez (Espana Ext) QC 2407m² T3730597 Noli

•Acropolis 414m² P41T/m² •South DBO 721-5226

LA1640m² Tandang Sora V-Lot Tel.# 928-1469

1000m² Alg EDSA Vac Lot Tel. 928-1469 • 453-4877

Comm'l Lot 2127m² @P14T per m² Q-Hiway 911-7940

Corinthian Lots 40T up 7240394/7226578 0917-4792264

Del Monte Ave. QC 1600m² V-Lot • Tel 928-1469

Del Monte Ave QC LA-1711m² Vac Lot 928-1469

Tandang Sora QC L-1640m² P10T/m² • Tel.# 928-1469

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

QUEZON CITY

Lincoln St. Roosevelt LA714m² 928-1469 V-Lot

Loyola Grand 600m² @ P8500 Call 09185079799

Ma Clara Nr. Banawe 1Tm² 23T/m² 724-0394/722-6578

New Mla QC 7449m² 815-0298 • 0919-4037225

**Nr Ateneo 900sm 5.5T /sm Nice Loc. 645-3731

Sct. Cor Lot 1481-114621

TIERRA PURA LOTS 928-3267 • 141-210187

Sikatuna V 600m² 12M 915-5177 • 0917-5325440

Sta Mesa Hts 1481-114621

*Teachers Vil 400@15T/m² 9139692/ 09193672327

NEOPOLITAN nr Clubhse & SMFview 4lots all adjacent 2corner 9411487 ; 9420080

RIZAL

246m² 3.7T/m² VISTA VERDE Cainta 6467425

Kingsville Royale
180sqm P3300 9334971

TAYTAY 1H 3.2/m² 6453731

SAN JUAN

** N. Domingo 300sm No Flood 20T/sm 6453731

PROVINCIAL

** Bat 4.6H 600sm 1Km Fr. Calabarzon HW 645-3731

**Pampanga 27H Alng Mc Arthur H-way 220/m² 681-2457

Tagaytay Country Homes I 135m² 3,200/m² 928-3267

Tagaytay Overlooking 679 Vac Lot Tel. 928-1469

553m² TAGAYTAY V-LOT TEL.# 928-1469

LA7049m² Commercial Lot Malinta Bul Tel. 928-1469

Malinta Bul 7049m² VLot Along Hiway Tel 453-4877

Puerto Princesa good 4 fstfood bank 0917-3711210

Southwoods Cavite 480m² Face South P7T 633-4107

Tagaytay 2Adj Lots 780 & 805sqm • 723-2391

•Tiaong Quezon 3.6Hec• 600/m² Town Hway 7215226

VL 551m² P3.5M Pandayan Meycauyan • 911-7940

Prto Princesa Rush! Com'l Lots 048-4342200/4332531

OTHER AREAS

2000m² Mc Arthur Hway BBB Valenzuela 716-8080 Sol

Comm'l Lot 2300m² P16T per sqm Malinta 911-7940

CL 600m² Malanday P16T /sqm Along Hway 911-7940

VARIOUS AREAS

Industrial Lot (Meyc.)
Pre-Selling (4 yrs. to pay)
Industrial Lot (Cavite)
developed Cash/Terms
Tel. 8884790 to 92

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

MAKATI

1BR Furn Salcedo Village @ P3.5M • 911-7940

1BR Nobel Plaza FA45m² @P3.5M Makati 911-7940

•88 Corp. Ctr BNew 178m² Sale or Rent 412-1825

The Peak Salcedo FA60m² 1Bed Fully Furn 534-7949

2B Salcedo Makati F-Furn 2T&B 1cg P3.9M 534-7949

Prince Plaza FA32m² SP Studio P2M Only 534-7949

Asia Tower Frt Greenbelt Studio FF P3.0M 534-7949

MANILA

Espana Mla New LA60m² 140m² 3BR P4M 533-5525

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

MANDALUYONG

GUEVENTVILLE II CONDO 2.2M 4BR 2TB 2 Garage Libertad St., Mand. City Mr. Tang • BP-150-315620 Cellphone • 0919-6230388

Mandaluyong 1br new 77m² +Amenities 2.4M 5335525

Mandaluyong 4BR LA60m² FA150 P6.5M • 533-5525

Rush!MegaPlaza 48.50sqm 1br 2.7MNeg 09178143792

Sedar-Ortigas 5.2M 3br/3tb Rush!142sqm 09178143792

Various Wack-Wack Condo Lee Gardens 534-6610 Jojo

WACKWACK THomes 93 sqm 2BR 3.2M 531-2021 • 0917-3955738

PARANAQUE

Nice BF TH Furn 3BR 1TB 1CG P3.5M • 911-7940

PASIG

**Renaissance Ortigas 1-3Br Rush Sale 6812457

AIC Gold 200m² 4BR 7.2M Rent@P60T 412-1825

**Nr C5 FA62 3Br 2Tb 1.7o Lmt 5Yrs 2 Pay 645-3731

**Nr C5 Res/Com TH 6M 357FA 156 0 Int 5Y 645-3731

Pacific Place Ortigas 3BR 3TB Pkg SF 3.9M 635-2115

QUEZON CITY

** Nr EDSA FA 64 LA50 2Tb Bn Nice Loc 2.7M 6453731

SCOUT THSES 4-7M Nice 3Sty • 928-3267

BURGUNDY Plaza QC 2BR 2.5M 5312021 0917-3955738

Bnew Gilmore / N. Domingo P3.6M 90m² 2br DBO 721-5226

New Mla Nr St Lukes 9M 3Sty 4br 2cg New 4134411

NOVALICHES 350T 9390299

RIZAL

Montalban 350T 913-0393

nr Makro 1.2 5yr 2926137

SAN JUAN

Annapolis Greenhills 3BR Condo w/View 928-3267

One Beverly FA193m² 3BR 3TB P8.7M • 911-7940

PROVINCIAL

TH Marcos Hi-Way FA108 sqm P1.7M • 911-7940

MEMORIAL LOT

•ETERNAL GARDEN•
Binan 4Lots 160T Neg.
CP:09189146916
PGR:141105067

Heritage Park 141-692807

Heritage Park Now Open Several Lots • 671-4421

CLUB SHARE & MEMBERSHIP

FONTANA SHARE 200T 928-3267 • 141-210187

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

KALOOCAN

3620065 BRIONES 7AVE 2TB S/T

MAKATI

BelAir Apt. 3BR Furn. 40T 8891708

MANDALUYONG

Studio
1Br & 2Br Units 4 Rent Call Gina/Elynor 5321016 (Tel-efax) MDC Residential Bldg
101 Isaac Lopez St, Mand. City

Studio Type Couple Only P3.5T Tel. 532-4446

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

MAKATI

• Dasmarinas Vill Makati • 4BR 4383970 0917-7914379

QUEZON CITY

1BR nr Ateneo 7T 6819727

New Intramuros QC 120m² 2BR 1TB 2cg 10K 931-7898

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1BR furnh South Str Plaza 8447524

Crown Tower Salcedo Vill 2BR 163sqm FF 896-6665

CTL8 PFur 1BR P10T 9299835

MAKATI 3BR 300m² 85T-100T/mo • 533-5525

PASIG

ORTIGAS CENTER 2-3BR 40T-60T/month • 533-5525

VVERDE 3BR FA=250SQM P35-38T • 723-2391

VVERDE 6 2BR P19T 723-2391 • 0917-3848111

QUEZON CITY

P4,500/mo.CUBAO
P6,500/mo.Malate
Call 911-3361 / 926-4071

OTHER AREAS

Park Ave. Mansion 1BR Studio 6-10/mo • 928-3267

FOR LEASE

WAREHOUSE FOR LEASE
Located at Balete St. Brgy. Lala-an, Silang, Cavite
Consisting of 8 almost new large factory - warehouses w/complete facilities &
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Bldg. I - 3,216m²
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Bldg. III - 3,360m²
Bldg. IV - 3,300m²
Bldg.V - 5,000m²
Bldg. VI - 10,368m²
Bldg. VII - 6,696m²
Bldg. VIII - 3,888m²
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Fax(045)8930206 to 08

•CEBU 13000m² empty lot along Industrial Area (032)2540970 / 0917-3257341

•LOT-490m² A.Tuazon & 700m² A. Rodriguez Mkna 438-3970

Nice 3br 1tb Mds Rm w/tb Makati 165/T/mo 911-7940

OFF Avenida nr Raon 7356516

Roosevelt Ave Lot 300m² 438-3970 • 0917-7914379

ROOM & BOARD

Ladies only T-8960941

Mktl Apartel 500-700/day 3T-4.2T/wk ful/fur 8995386

WANTED TO BUY

DEFECT TV/COMPO 7325865

LOAN & MORTGAGE

Loans-Doctors, Dentist, Salary, Business 524-3197

BUSINESS RENTAL

**Antel Global 142m² 350/m² Call 6812457

P1800/mo Stalls
Malate T-400-6420/23
Sn Pedro Lag. 8086006/07

**JMT BLdg 318m² at 280/m² Call 6812457

**Taipan Ortigas 129m² Call 681-2457

**Tektite 101m² Up at 300/m² Call 6812457

520m² OFFICE SPACE
10/F TRAFALGAR PLAZA
H.V. Dela Costa St.,
Salcedo Vil. Makati City
Mr. Tang CP-0919-6230388
Tel. 6714532 • 6714541-42

Dental Office Space For Rent Call 7330443/0917-4051539

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

BUSINESS RENTAL

•CEBU Ayala Business Park
Penthse 192m² Ideal 4 Ofc (32)2540970 / 0917-3257341

COMMERCIAL SPACE 100m² along McA Hway nr Malls & Bank Meyc Bul. & W'HSE FA500-800m² nr McA Hway V. Reales Val. City P15T-up 292-2904 / 0056 / 09175382463

● PSE-TEKTITE ●
50m² FF 631-4648 / 57

Makati 4 Pre-School 75T LA400 Semi-Furn 534-7949

Ortigas/Makati 120-195m² 48T-97T/mo • 533-5525

PASIG Bo. De La Paz Off/ Whse LA1000m² 3PH 2Tel Call 725-0462

Tektite-W 109+Pkg FFurn 350/sqm w/View 6334107

RESORT

EL Nido Beach Front P500 per sqm 10HA • 911-7940

PansolHotSpringPrvt 776-7507

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

PARTS & ACCESSORIES

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CARS

KIA

Ceres 1996 P110T Dropside Nw Tires 6458678

MERCEDES

92 MB190E 2.3L White M/T 650T Tel 8172708

MB 126 Body
See 2 apprcte 634-8160

MITSUBISHI

L3 '95 DSL VAN AC 9132224

S-Wagon Acq.'93 634-8160

NISSAN

98 CEFIRO ELITE A/T Blk 780T 19TKm A1 8420343

SAFARI '97 loaded 9124428

TOYOTA

95 FX Gas 47Km P255 725-8385

99 Esteem P460 725-8385

CRLLA '97 GLI A/T 9126976

VAN/PICK-UP

93 Mit L300 Al.Van 190 Neg 9204192 Col. Pueyo

BUSES/TRUCKS

Pre-Summer Sale: NKR P220 Canter P190 Delica P140 NHR P200 Daihatsu Van P95 Toyota Pass. Van P275T T-Ace P-up P130 Van P140 9126976; 4381480; 9132224

HEAVY EQUIPMENT/ TRANSPORT

5Units KUBOTA TRACTOR P680T 3610215 3672002

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

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Bnew L300 8254058 8261045

Bnew HiAce 6336754 9100893

Van Coaster Bus 440-91-71

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H-100 Van/Honda 920-7360

HiAce L300 Urvan 8257135

IT/ Hiace 9136710/4333682

L300 T 4161105 / 7411356

MB100 HiAceL300 2973807

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STAREX L3 9121809/7268388

U Drive Cars Vans 8006595

•Car;Vans4535288;9296250

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

CAR LOAN

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523-24

2% w/o taking car 7262780

2% w/o Taking Car 3670169

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

ELECTRONIC & INDUSTRIAL EQUIP

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WANTED TO BUY

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others, High Price CASH CALL 09178142309/7269687

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ROLEX
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MISCELLANEOUS

Binocular Microscope Jeff 8891293 or 0919-3680448

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Arrangement 4 All Occasions 4 Delivery T/F 7163274/7140870

Generator *Set 3672002

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

Gen. Mgr Scty Agency 6313496

Personnel Mgr w/ exp. T9121664 txt 0917-9951648

FEMALE

DOMESTIC HELPER 5623982

MAIDS direct hire 8426736

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

BOOKKEEPER T-5280722

CARE GIVER T5280722

COMMISSION ON APPOINTMENTS
Pursuant to Mandate of R.A. 7041
One (1) Legislative Staff Assistant III (property Clerk) Item No. 93/SG 11-1 Qualification Standards; CS Subprofessional; completion of at least two (2) years of college studies; two (2) years of relevant experience; eight (8) hours of relevant training. Send application to: Press Center, PICC Bldg., CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City

HAIRDRESSER
(For QC & Makati Branch)
8956031 L2011

Masseur/Se; Aerobics /Gym Instructress 892-2759 Imee, 646-1118 Mila

RE Broker 292-6137

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

Continuing
Education
Program

March 24 & 31 Sat. 8-5pm
Rack's Rest., El Pueblo
Julia Vargas, Ortigas Ctr
*Romy Judan 641-7882
*Billie Pilar 633-7603 to 10

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

TELEMARKETING 2477469

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RESTAURANT FOR 26 COVERS Along Katipunan Mezzanine Call 7434154

RTW Cash/Consign 3738821

RTW Cash/Term 3714226

Supervisor US$ 8951381

T-SHIRT SALE TEL4383147

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late AMADO J. DOMINGO, SR, was settled by his heirs through an extrajudicial partition acknowledged before Notary Public Emerico B. Lomibao for and in the City of Manila as Doc. No. 359 on Page 11, Book XXXI, Series of 2001 of his Notarial Register
PDI-March 9, 16 & 23, 2001

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given of the loss of Bureau of Immigration Alien Certificate of Registration No. E076812 and Immigrant Certificate of Residence No. 231264 under the name of MR. LIANG KAI LAI
PDI-Mar. 9,16 & 23, 2001

Notice on the loss of Manila Electric Co. Cert. #484546A w/982 class A shares under Maria Ocampo if no contest r'ced new cert. will be issued PDI-March23,30April6,2001

Stolen or lost ICR & ACR#E-037342. Finder, please return to the Bureau of Immigration or call Travel Counsellors, Inc. at 8170112 & 8154023/25.

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO ST. ANTHONY
O Holy St. Anthony, gentlest of Saints, your love for God and charity for His creatures, made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers. Miracles waited on your word, which you were ever ready to speak for those in trouble or anxiety. Encouraged by this thought, I implore of you to obtain for me (request). The answer to my prayer may require a miracle, even so, you are the Saint of Miracles. O gentle and loving St. Anthony, whose heart was ever full of human sympathy, whisper my petition into the ears of the Sweet Infant Jesus, who loved to be folded in your arms; and the gratitude of my heart will ever be yours. (Thank you very much for the graces.)

PUBLIC NOTICES

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH
Oh, St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God. I place in you all my interest and desires. Oh, St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of fathers. Oh, St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you, and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me and ask Him to return the Kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls - Pray for me.
This prayer was found in the fiftieth year of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. In 1505 it was sent from the Pope to Emperor Charles when he was going into battle. Whoever shall read this prayer or hear it or keep it about themselves, shall never die a sudden death, or be drowned, nor shall poison take effect on them; neither shall they fall into the hands of the enemy, or shall be burned in any fire or shall be overpowered in battle.
Say for nine mornings for anything you may desire. It has never been known to fail so be sure you really want what you ask.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT
Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen.

The **PHILIPPINE NATIONAL RED CROSS** (www. redcross.org.ph) with the **INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS and RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES** (www.ifrc.org)
is inviting applicants for the positions of:

Regional Health Officer *(Health in emergencies)*
Regional Health Officer *(Capacity building)*

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Regional delegation, seeks two experienced public health experts for the posts of Regional Health Officers with the Regional Health Unit for Southeast and East Asia.

The persons
We are looking for two 28-40 years old public health experts with specialization in *Capacity Building* on an organizational level and in *Health in Emergencies*. They should have minimally 3-5 years experience in these fields.

In the field of *Capacity building*, experience in institutional training, needs assessments, participatory planning and networking are essential. Experience in editing basic newsletters, utilizing the Internet and organizing professional workshops are definitely an asset. In the field of *Health in Emergencies*, experience in emergency-related assessments and response planning, as well as initial response coordination (up to 4 weeks) is essential. In addition, successful candidates have to be able to develop specific capacity-building programmes for national staff and to establish a regional network of health professionals for health emergency response. Both positions call for a high degree of planning skills and the ability to develop and implement strategic concepts. A MPH or MSc degree would be an advantage.

The candidates must be fluent in English. International experience and additional Asian language skills are definitely an asset. The candidates should be interested in working as part of an international team, be willing to travel regionally at short notice and work long hours under difficult circumstances. He/she needs to be well versed in Internet and database use and common computer software, be knowledgeable about critical health issues in the region, and have a comprehensive understanding of health-related development and disaster issues.

The Regional Health Unit
The Regional Health Unit for Southeast and East Asia provides support and assistance to National Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies in capacity building, networking and advocacy in relevant health programmes and provides technical assistance in the implementation of these programmes for the purpose of assisting vulnerable communities. The health officers will be part of the Regional Health Team of five, headed by the Regional Health Delegate.

The positions are initially for one year, renewable on annual basis. Job descriptions are available on request.

Please send applications in English including salary expectations and CVs in MS Word 2000 by **e-mail only** to:

Dr. Stefan Seebacher MPH
Regional Health Delegate
Regional Delegation
E-mail (confidential): **ifrcth02@ifrc.org**

Closing date March 30, 2001. Only short-listed candidates will be notified.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies works on the basis of the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, to inspire, facilitate and promote all humanitarian activities carried out by its member National Societies to improve the lives of the world's most vulnerable people.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

INVITATION TO AUCTION

The National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce that it shall be conducting a sealed auction on **29 March 2001** at 2:00 PM at the NFA Penthouse Canteen, 11th Floor, 101 Matimyas Building, E. Rodriguez, Sr. Ave., Quezon City for the allocation of quotas to NFA licensed grains importers and wholesalers/retailers covering the importation of 7,500 MT maximum of Premium, Fancy and Glutinous rice.

Interested auctioner/s should be able to comply with the following which shall be submitted to DMO-FOD, 5th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez, Sr. Ave., Quezon City not later than **26 March 2001**:

a. A duly notarized authorization from the owner, chairman, partner or president of the sole proprietorship, partnership, company, corporation or cooperative certifying that:
    a.1 He/She is presently connected with the foregoing entity either as owner, official, employee or present stockholder/shareholder;
    a.2 He/She is authorized to represent the entity to the pre-auction, auction proper and all activities pertinent therein.
b. Updated/valid NFA license as importer and wholesaler/retailer. It is understood that the winning auctioner/s shall comply with other NFA rules and regulations on NFA licensing as deemed appropriate.

The 7,500 MT maximum shall be auctioned at a indicative equalization fee bid of PHP 3,240.00 per MT. Maximum quantity to be offered per importer is 1,000 MT.

Cargo discharge shall be limited to any of the following ports only:

Manila
Poro Point/La Union
Batangas
Cebu
Tabaco, Albay/Legaspi
Davao
Cagayan de Oro

Awarded auctioners during the first tranch of auction conducted by the NFA last **March 02, 2001** shall not anymore be allowed to participate in this second tranch of auction.

All interested auctioners shall be subjected to payment/posting of bid bond equivalent to 10% of total bid price in the form of cashier's check or Manager's check.

The pre-auction conference will be held on **27 March 2001** at 2:00 p.m. at the NFA Penthouse Canteen.

Interested auctioners may secure the Guidelines in the Importation of Premium, Fancy and Glutinous Rice by the Private Sector from DMO-FOD, 5th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez, Sr. Ave., Quezon City.

Winning auctioners shall be issued a Permit to import Rice after payment of the required Equalization Fee. It is understood that the tariff/duty of 50% shall be paid by the importer.

Auction documents will be available on **27 March 2001** after the pre-auction conference upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PHP 2,000.00.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all, to waive any informality thereof and to accept only such bid/s as are advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) **ANTHONY R.A. ABAD**
Administrator

(PDI – March 23, 24 & 25, 2001)

OPEN HOUSE *for* REGISTERED NURSES

YALE NEW HAVEN HOSPITAL
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YALE NEW HAVEN HEALTH

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY BOARD
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR RATE INCREASE IN THE AMOUNT OF NO 4256 WITH PROVINCIAL AUTHORITY

ERB CASE NO. 2001-06

CAPIZ ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC. (CAPELCO)
Applicant
x-----------------------------------x

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

Notice is hereby given of the filing by applicant Capiz Electric Cooperative Inc (CAPELCO) on January 19, 2001 of an application for authority to increase its rates in the amount of PO 4256 with prayer for provision relief.

The Board has set the said application for hearing on April 19 and 20, 2001 at two o'clock (2:00 p.m.) in the afternoon at the ERB Room, 15th Floor, Pacific Center Building, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Complex, Pasig City.

All interested parties who may wish to comment on or oppose the said application should file their comments and/or oppositions on or before the date of initial hearing. Such parties who may wish to have the details of the application and who shall have manifested to the Board their desire and intention to participate actively in the proceeding may request that before the date of initial hearing, they furnished with copies of the application by the applicant, which is hereby directed to furnish the parties making such request with copies of the application. Likewise, any such interested party may examine the application, other pertinent records filed with the Board during the usual office hours.

WITNESS, the Honorable MELINDA L. OCAMPO, Chairman and Honorable ALBERTO D. DOSAYLA, OSCAR E. ALA, NICOMEDES B. DEYNATE and MARIETTA U. LARRACAS, Members Energy Regulatory Board this 1st day of February, 2001 at Pasig City.

(Sgd.) ARMIDO O. INUMERABLE
Executive Director

(PDI – Mar. 22 & 23, 2001)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Please be informed of our new classified advertising rates effective February 1, 2001 Issue.

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Line Ad - P 65.00/line
Obituaries - P230.00/col. cm.

JOB MARKET
(Metro Manila Edition)
Box Ad - P190.00/col. cm.

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Lungsod ng Quezon

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QUEZON CITY PHILIPPINES

TELEPHONE NOS 929-6071 to 78
CABLE NIAPHIL
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INVITATION TO BID
Bid No. 0015-01
PRINTING & DELIVERY OF ANNUAL REPORT, BROCHURES & POSTERS

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) invites interested bidders to participate in the Printing and Delivery of the following:

1,500 copies NIA Annual Report
40,000 copies of El Niño Information Brochures
5,000 copies of El Niño Posters

Interested bidders may obtain bid documents from 02 April 2001 to 17 April 2001 at the Procurement Division, Ground Floor, NIA Building, EDSA, Quezon City, Tel. Nos. 921-3906 and 922-4768 upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Three Hundred Pesos (P300.00).

A Pre-Bid Conference shall be held on 20 April 2001, 2:00 PM at the Conference Room at the Office of the Assistant Administrator for Administrative Services, Ground Floor, NIA Building, EDSA, Quezon City.

Bid opening shall be on 26 April 2001 at the same time and venue where the Pre-Bid Conference shall be held

All bids must be accompanied by Bid Security equivalent to at least 2.5% of the total bid price.

The NIA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare the bidding a failure or waive any or all informalities or to award such bid to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) GABRIEL Q. ENRIQUEZ
Assistant Administrator for
Administrative Services

(PDI – Mar. 22 & 23, 2001)

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HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES LOGISTICS CENTER
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Tel. No.: 911-6001 Local 4412 & 4454
E-mail Address: hqlogcen@i-next.net
AFP Website: http://www.armedforces.mil.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The AFP Logistics Center through the 72-100 Reimbursable Fund Unit hereby invites interested manufacturers to provide the following Combat Clothing and Individual Equipment (CCIE) for Stock Replenishment:

ITB Nr.	Qty.	Nomenclature	Specification
0.1	1,500	Boots, Combat HW	QM Spec. Nr. US Mil-B 43154K (Adapted) Amendment 5 dtd 06 August 1993
0.2	3,000	Suit, Fatigue, OD with Cap	QM Spec Nr C-555FRW, Amendment Nr. 1 dtd 01 September 1992

Inquiries for the details and particulars on bid documents, specifications, date and time of bidding shall be provided during office hours at the Reimbursable Fund Unit (72-100). Tel. No. 911-6001 local 4412 or 4454. Closing date for submission of requirements for eligibility is on **April 11, 2001**.

Pre-bid Conference	**April 03, 2001**, 9:00 AM
Submission & Opening of Bid Proposals	**April 17, 2001**, 9:00 AM

Venue:
Daza Park Pavillion, AFP Logistics Center
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City

THE AFP LOGISTICS CENTER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, WAIVE ANY FORMALITY AND AWARD THE CONTRACT TO THE LOWEST CALCULATED RESPONSIVE BID AS DETERMINED BY THE AFPLC BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE FOR CCIE.

(Sgd.) **COLONEL REYNALDO S. RAMIREZ (GSC) PAF**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee for CCIE

(PDI – March 23 & 24, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue, Quezon City 1100, Philippines * Telephone 925-24-01 *

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Philippine Heart Center (PHC) invites sealed written bids for one (1) unit:
a.) Cardiovascular X-ray System b.) Mobile C-arm X-ray w/ digital imaging, vascular package & accessories. c.) Combined Cardiac & Peripheral CV X-ray System
Only duly accredited bidders/suppliers will be allowed to participate in the bidding.
List of requirements to be submitted:

1. Letter of Intent
2. Article of Incorporation & by-laws
3. Bus. License
4. Financial Statement (last 2 yrs.)
5. ITR for the last 2 years
6. List of clients & contact person
7. Location Map of Office
8. DOH Accreditation
9. Certificate of Training/s for Service Engineers
10. Product list w/ Cert. of Exclusive Distributorship & brochure
11. Notarized Cert. of Authority to sign & represent the company
12. Certificate of major parts availability

All interested bidders/suppliers must submit their accreditation documents on or before **April 20, 2001** at Purchasing Division.

The PHC reserves the right to disqualify any prospective bidder/s if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information and the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder/s.

(Sgd.) **ROMEO J. SANTOS, M.D.**
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI – March 23, 24, 25, 30, 31 & April 1, 2001)

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JOSE L. GANTIOQUI, JR., MD

of Arayat, Pampanga and Davao City

January 23, 1918 - March 22, 2001

Chairman Emeritus and Former President,
Davao Doctors Hospital and Davao Doctors College
peacefully joined his Creator
and wife **Sofia Diokno**,
sisters **Rosa** and **Concepcion** and
brothers **Leovigildo**, **Leonardo** and **Pacifico**
at the age of 83.

His brother **Avelino**, and sisters
Salvacion, **Lucila**, **Magdalena** and **Adelaida**,
in-laws, nephews and nieces, relatives and
friends request the pious readers
to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at his residence at
No. 6 Palm Drive, Bajada, Davao City.

Interment will be after the 8:00 AM Mass
on Sunday, March 25, 2001 at
the Davao Memorial Park Chapel.

The management, officers and employees

of

DAVAO DOCTORS HOSPITAL
and DAVAO DOCTORS COLLEGE

convey their sincere sympathies
to the family of

JOSE L. GANTIOQUI, JR., MD

Chairman Emeritus and Former President
Davao Doctors Hospital

who passed away early morning
on March 22, 2001
and request his friends and the public
whose lives he touched to pray for
the eternal repose of his soul.

GOD BLESS HIM!

MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the family of the late

Zenaida T. Alba

who joined her Creator on February 12, 2001
at the age of 64.

wish to convey our sincerest gratitude and
appreciation to our relatives, friends and
all those who sent flowers, donations, offered
Masses and prayers, called from abroad,
attended the funeral rites, helped
and comforted us in so many ways
during our time of bereavement.

May God grant you abundant blessings for
your thoughtfulness and generosity.

Thank you very much.

Our beloved mother

Aurelia Huen Huerto

peacefully joined her Creator
on March 21, 2001
at the age of 96.

Her loving children **Marie**, and husband **Pedring**, **Flore** (widow), **Ellie** and husband **Bellie**, **Leopoldo Huerto** (Ret. Customs Officer) and wife **Rose**, grandchildren and great grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the Rizal Funeral Homes at Cementina Street (near Pasay Road), Pasay City.

Interment will be on March 28, 2001 at the Manila South Cemetery after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

FATIMA NILA PANGILINAN RECTO

of Metro Manila and Concepcion, Tarlac

*has joined her husband **Oscar Bagui Recto***
and rest in the infinite warmth and embrace
of our Lord on 16 March 2001 in Daly City, CA
at the age of 53.

Her children **Ma. Rona** and **Michael Dinglasan**, **Jose Frandel**, **Jose Carlo** and **Michelle**, **Ma. Lucia**, **Jose Chilo**; grandchildren **Karla Mae**, **Carlos Nicole** and **Marinela**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body will be flown in on Saturday morning, 24 March. Viewing will start by 6:00 PM at the St. Alphonsus Mary de Ligouri Chapel in Magallanes Village, Makati City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, 27 March, at the Manila Memorial Park in Sucat, Parañaque after a 2:00 PM Mass.

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I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 14:6

ECONOMIC FREEDOM

IMF plans to attach fewer conditions to loans

WASHINGTON—The International Monetary Fund plans to attach fewer conditions to the loans it makes to give countries more freedom in setting their own economic policies.

The move, part of a raft of reforms, addresses criticism that the IMF has been too intrusive and demanding to nations that receive its aid. The reforms give countries political wiggle room to formulate policies.

The change goes to the core of the most virulent complaints about the IMF—that rich nations who fund the IMF use its aid packages as a conduit to foist ill-suited economic policies on poorer nations. The changes should give borrowing nations more input into crafting their own economic recovery.

Also, financial markets should have a clearer picture of whether countries are meeting the criteria to qualify for the next installment of IMF cash.

In a series of papers published on the IMF's website, the lender admitted that, in the past two decades, the number of conditions attached to its loans had mushroomed as the IMF sought ways to boost growth and promote structural reforms, particularly in emerging economies and poor nations.

Following a frank internal debate, some IMF directors said those conditions were, at times, "overstepping (the IMF's) mandate and expertise," and had "sometimes short-circuited national decision-making processes," and failed to take account of the need for public support.

By attaching fewer conditions to its loans, the IMF hopes countries will assume more "ownership" of their economic programs. The fund also hopes to offer financial markets a clearer picture of what critical benchmarks countries must meet to receive their next installment of IMF cash.

As an example of how the new rules will work, the IMF noted that, in the past, it might have conditioned a loan on a country increasing tax revenues through a specific measure, for example increasing sales tax from 10 percent to 15 percent. Now, the fund might just demand more tax revenues but let the country's government decide which type of tax hike is best.

"We need to move to a more streamlined and focused approach," Masood Ahmed, deputy director of the IMF's Policy Development and Review Department, said at a news briefing.

"The aim of this streamlining is not to weaken programs, rather it is to ensure that countries have the maximum possible scope to shape their own choices," he said.

In essence, the decision moves what the IMF calls the "conditionality" of its lending to a selective approach to goals rather than the comprehensive approach it has used in the past. Conditions will apply only to those economic policies that are critical, placing less emphasis on non-critical goals that may be desirable but not essential.

The IMF will also rely more on other institutions, like the World Bank, to monitor progress in key areas outside the IMF's core area of expertise, such as some structural reforms.

The changes will also require countries to meet fewer formal benchmarks. As an example, Ahmed noted that the IMF demanded that Mauritania meet 19 benchmarks while moving toward changing its Value Added Tax.

The IMF will also spell out which conditions are key to receiving money, in hopes of eliminating confusion in financial markets about which conditions in a letter of intent a country must meet and which are mere suggestions.

In 1997, Thailand devalued its currency, sparking a financial crisis that spread through the region and as far afield as Brazil, Argentina and Russia. The IMF was criticized for doing too little too late and being too rigid in its approach to problems.

The latest changes, which the IMF's board will refine through the rest of this year, follow other reforms aimed at making the lender more efficient. Among changes already made are charging higher interest rates on some loans to reduce reliance on IMF cash and more cooperation with the World Bank.

In the coming months the IMF will continue to refine the changes, taking account of public comment and input from member governments. Among the issues still to be addressed are what to do about lending to countries which are not committed to the IMF's program but may have agreed to conditions to forward an alternative agenda, such as restructuring other debts.

The more relaxed conditions will apply to new loans, but no changes are planned for existing loans. *Reuters*

After 85 years, Boeing leaving Seattle

SEATTLE—Boeing Co. stunned its hometown by announcing it was moving its headquarters out of Seattle, where the aircraft manufacturing giant was founded 85 years ago.

Boeing chair and chief executive Phil Condit said Wednesday Boeing was considering Chicago, Denver and Dallas-Fort Worth.

Condit said the reason for the move was to save money and give the world's No. 1 maker of passenger jets a headquarters central to its operations, now spread over 26 states.

Competition has become fierce from European consortium Airbus Industrie, Boeing's only rival for large commercial jets. Though Airbus, for the first time, captured more orders than Boeing in 1999, Boeing again took the lead last year, announcing firm orders for 611 jetliners to Airbus' 520, or a 54-percent share.

Airbus delivered 311 jets last year, while Boeing delivered 489.

The companies are waging a huge marketing battle over what the future of commercial air travel will be. Airbus contends airlines will want its 555-seat A380 superjumbo, while Boeing maintains there will be more demand for long-range but smaller capacity jets.

Airbus has announced 60 orders for the A380, which it hopes will overshadow Boeing's 747 jumbo jet. Boeing has plans for a stretch version of the 747 but has yet to announce any customers.

Boeing's huge jet manufacturing plants will remain in the Seattle area, as will much of its research and development work.

Condit said less than half the 1,000 employees working at its Seattle corporate center would be moved to the new headquarters. The others would be transferred to other departments or may be laid off, he said.

Shares of Boeing fell $1.15, or 2 percent, to close at $53.85 Wednesday on the New York Stock Exchange.

Boeing hopes to choose the new site by early summer and have it running by the fall.

The announcement shocked community and labor leaders.

While the move might not have a major economic impact on Seattle, Mayor Paul Schell and Gov. Gary Locke publicly pleaded with Boeing to reconsider.

"I will do all I can to help them change their minds," Schell said.

"I am surprised and deeply sorry to see any part of the Boeing Co. leave Washington state," Locke said. "While the bulk of the Boeing family remains with us, to lose the corporate leadership of this company leaves a void in our economic and cultural life."

Boeing is Washington state's biggest private employer, with 78,400 people in the Seattle area alone. Worldwide, it has 198,900 workers, with major operations in St. Louis and Southern California.

Condit said the decision to move was made six months ago and was announced as the company began actively seeking a new site.

The headquarters needs "to be in a location central to our operating units, customers and the financial community—but separate from our existing operations," Condit said.

He said a factor in choosing the new location would be tax and other economic considerations the candidate cities might offer.

As part of the reorganization, Condit also is promoting the heads of Boeing's three major divisions—commercial airplanes, military aircraft and missiles, and space and communications—to chief executive officers, with the goal of giving those divisions more autonomy and encouraging them to grow.

Boeing's white-collar union, the Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace, expressed regret over the decision to move.

"We feel that Boeing is part of the Pacific Northwest and part of the fundamental character of the community," said Craig Buckham, union president. "For 85 years, it has been the heart and soul of the Pacific Northwest culture and economy." *AP*

US banks suffering from stock meltdown

NEW YORK—The big US commercial banks, already hurting from a near freeze on initial public offerings, could face an even more uncertain future if global economic conditions continue to deteriorate.

Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley, Lehman Brothers and Bear Stearns have all reported sharp declines in quarterly net earnings largely attributable to a fall-off in revenue from investment activities.

Financial analysts are now warning of a possible wave of layoffs if financial markets weaken further and investment operations stagnate.

With the steep declines seen on Wall Street since the Internet bubble burst in the spring of 2000, initial public offerings—a corporation's first offering of stock to the public—have become less and less frequent.

Goldman Sachs on Tuesday blamed much of its 13-percent plunge in first quarter profits to a sharply reduced number of initial offerings available for it to manage. Revenue from overseeing initial public offerings declined 36 percent to $415 million.

In addition, the scope and frequency of mergers and acquisitions have likewise contracted in the past year.

At Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, chair Philip Purcell saw conditions remaining difficult for the bank in the foreseeable future. Morgan Stanley on Wednesday reported a 30-percent decline in first quarter net earnings to $1.075 billion.

But a bank statement said the results did not yet reflect a slowdown in merger and acquisition activity that began late last year. *AFP*

AIDS, poverty to top World Bank meetings

OTTAWA—African poverty and the explosion of AIDS on the continent would likely be key issues at April's World Bank and International Monetary Fund meetings in Washington, Canadian Finance Minister Paul Martin said Wednesday.

"The whole question of AIDS and the whole question of Africa," Martin said when asked about the agenda for the meetings to take place at the end of April.

"How do you deal with extreme poverty and how do you deal with the combination of extreme poverty and major health problems? I think you'll find they tend to dominate the debate," Martin told Reuters in an interview.

Sub-Saharan Africa, the world's poorest region, has been ravaged by the AIDS epidemic, accounting for more than 25 million of the 36 million people worldwide who have been infected with the HIV virus.

Martin, as chair of the G20, which encompasses the wealthy Group of Seven nations as well as developing countries, has increasingly pushed for the recognition of social problems at such international meetings.

"Canada's really pushing the topic quite strongly," he said.

"The health issue is a moral issue and it stands on its own. But at the same time, it is also a major economic development issue. Countries in Africa are losing vast segments of their population at ages when they should be contributing."

Britain announced Wednesday that leaders of the industrial world would study ways to help developing countries access AIDS drugs and other life-saving medicines at their summit in Genoa, Italy, in July.

Drug companies, under attack for their insistence on patent protection in developing countries and facing mounting competition from generic producers, have recently bowed to pressure by cutting prices in Africa. *Reuters*

Next WTO boss urges use of carrot, not stick

WASHINGTON—Developed nations should use a carrot, rather than a stick, to encourage poorer countries to improve their labor standards, the next chief of the World Trade Organization said Wednesday.

In a speech, former Thailand Deputy Prime Minister Supachai Panitchpakdi also called for a one-time, high-level international meeting on trade and labor to give countries on both sides of the debate a chance to "air complaints."

Supachai, who takes over from Mike Moore as head of the world trade body in September 2002, said the WTO should not be given the job of enforcing labor standards around the world, as labor groups in the United States proposed.

"We must be able to find out some other more effective means" of encouraging higher labor standards, he said.

Instead of penalizing poor countries for their labor practices, "we should reward" countries that improve working condition by offering them more export opportunities, he said.

How to handle labor and environmental issues associated with trade is one of the most difficult challenges facing the US Congress and the Bush administration this year.

Labor unions and environmental groups have insisted any legislation to give President George W. Bush new negotiating authority require future trade agreements to contain enforceable protections for workers and the environment.

Business groups strongly oppose that idea on the grounds the issues are better handled outside of trade pacts.

Developing countries, who account for most of the WTO's membership, also do not want labor and environmental provisions in trade pacts because they fear developed countries will use them as an excuse to deny market access.

Former President Bill Clinton's suggestion that sanctions would one day be used to enforce labor standards was a principal reason efforts to launch a new round of world trade talks collapsed in Seattle in December 1999. *Reuters*

3Com surpasses 1M cable modem mark

SANTA CLARA, California—3Com Corp. has announced that it has shipped more than 1.2 million two-way external cable modems to US customers that include AT&T Broadband, Time Warner, Cablevision Systems and Charters, as well as clients outside the United States.

"3Com has matched the needs of broadband Internet service providers as their subscriber bases surged during the past two years," Michael Pula, director of cable product management for 3Com's Residential Connectivity Group, said. "We are now poised to expand this effort in the coming year."

In addition to increased factory capacity and output capabilities, 3Com has instituted two initiatives that position it well to maintain its growth in this sector.

First, the company has resolved supply chain issues that plague the entire industry, making strategic design decisions and sourcing from multiple suppliers.

Second, 3Com has worked with major service providers to offer consumers radically simple self-installation options, freeing service providers to more efficiently institute service.

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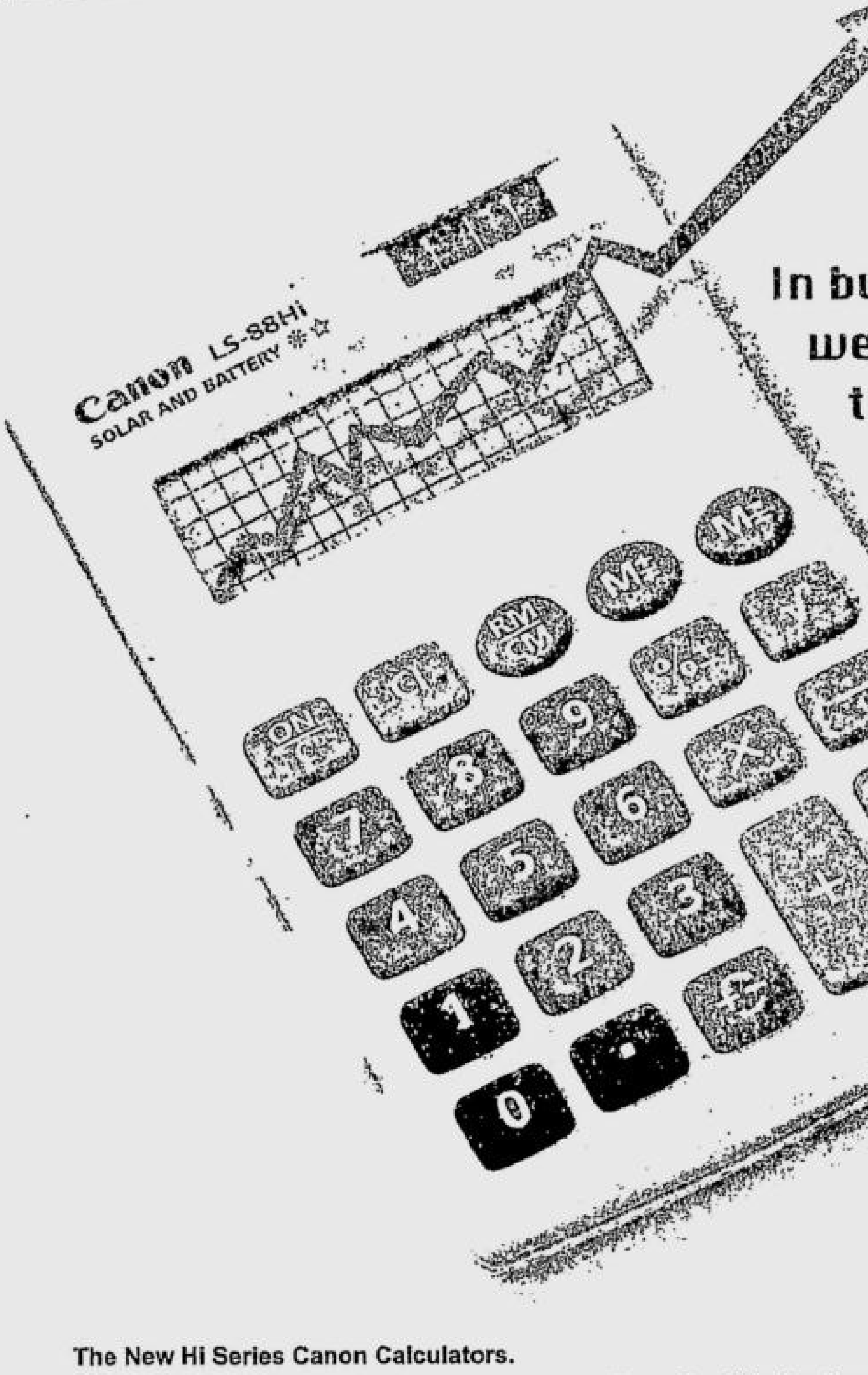

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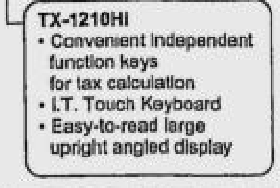

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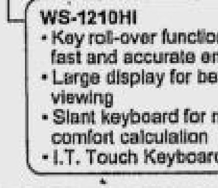

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Japan's banks dealing with $32B in bad loans

TOKYO—Japan's top 16 banks would book a total of 4 trillion yen ($32 billion) in bad loans for the fiscal year ending in March, up 60 percent from their previous forecasts, Japan's leading business daily reported yesterday.

Several big banks would likely be posting losses for the fiscal year, the Nihon Keizai Shimbun said, as sliding stocks and dwindling land prices for collateral bite into their ability to dispose of towering dubious loans.

Three banks forming the UFJ Group—Sanwa Bank, Tokai Bank and Toyo Trust & Banking Co.—have already announced expected losses for the fiscal year of 223 billion yen ($1.8 billion) mainly because of bad loans of 1.1 trillion yen ($8.9 billion), nearly double the initial estimate.

Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, Asahi Bank and Daiwa Bank was also headed toward net losses, depending on losses on the Tokyo stock market, where share prices recently fell to 16-year lows, according to the report, which did not cite any sources. Banks are major shareholders on the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

Pressure is growing around the world for Japan's banks to start dealing with the bad-loan disaster at the root of a decade-long slowdown that, in turn, is threatening to hurt other economies and set off a global decline in stock prices.

Banks have stalled dealing with the problem for years despite a public bailout approved in 1998. The continuing erosion in stock and land prices, as well as the recent slowdown in the United States, have only worsened their troubles. *AP*

Has Fed's power weakened?

WASHINGTON—The US central bank, with three reductions in interest rates, is jolting monetary policy more aggressively than at any other time since the early 1980s.

But Wall Street is still plunging and dragging down consumer confidence, even as the US Federal Reserve makes mortgages and other consumer loans more attractive.

The economic forces at work have raised new fears that the country's record economic expansion, which celebrates its 10th birthday this month, could topple into a recession despite the Fed's efforts.

"The Fed lowering interest rates is powerful medicine, but it takes nine to 12 months to fully affect the economy. The problem is we could have a recession before then," said David Wyss, chief economist at Standard & Poor's. He put the chance of a recession at 40 percent.

There is new worry because the Fed's latest rate cut on Tuesday has not halted the market's sell-off. Investors, who have been hoping for a bigger dose of rate relief, have turned even more pessimistic, driving stock prices down further.

The Dow Jones industrial average, which closed off 238 points on Tuesday, fell an additional 234 points on Wednesday.

The Fed's lower interest rates, which translate into lower borrowing costs for millions of consumers and businesses, apparently are being offset by a negative version of what analysts have called the "wealth effect" on Wall Street.

If consumers, who spent with abandon when their portfolios were growing, reverse course now that they see their investments shrinking, that change could be enough to trigger a full-blown recession, given that consumer spending accounts for two-thirds of total economic activity.

Even before the latest market plunge, consumer confidence in late February had dropped to its lowest level in four years.

The problem for Fed Chair Alan Greenspan and the other policymakers is compounded by the fact that so many more Americans now own stocks—48.2 percent of all households compared with just 19 percent in 1983.

The Fed's only tool to influence the economy is interest rates. It raised rates six straight times from June 1999 through May of last year when it was concerned that rapid economic growth and the lowest unemployment rates in three decades were threatening to spawn higher inflation.

While critics contend that Federal Reserve officials overdid the rate hikes and were too slow to start cutting rates, the Fed has made up for lost time with the pace of its cuts.

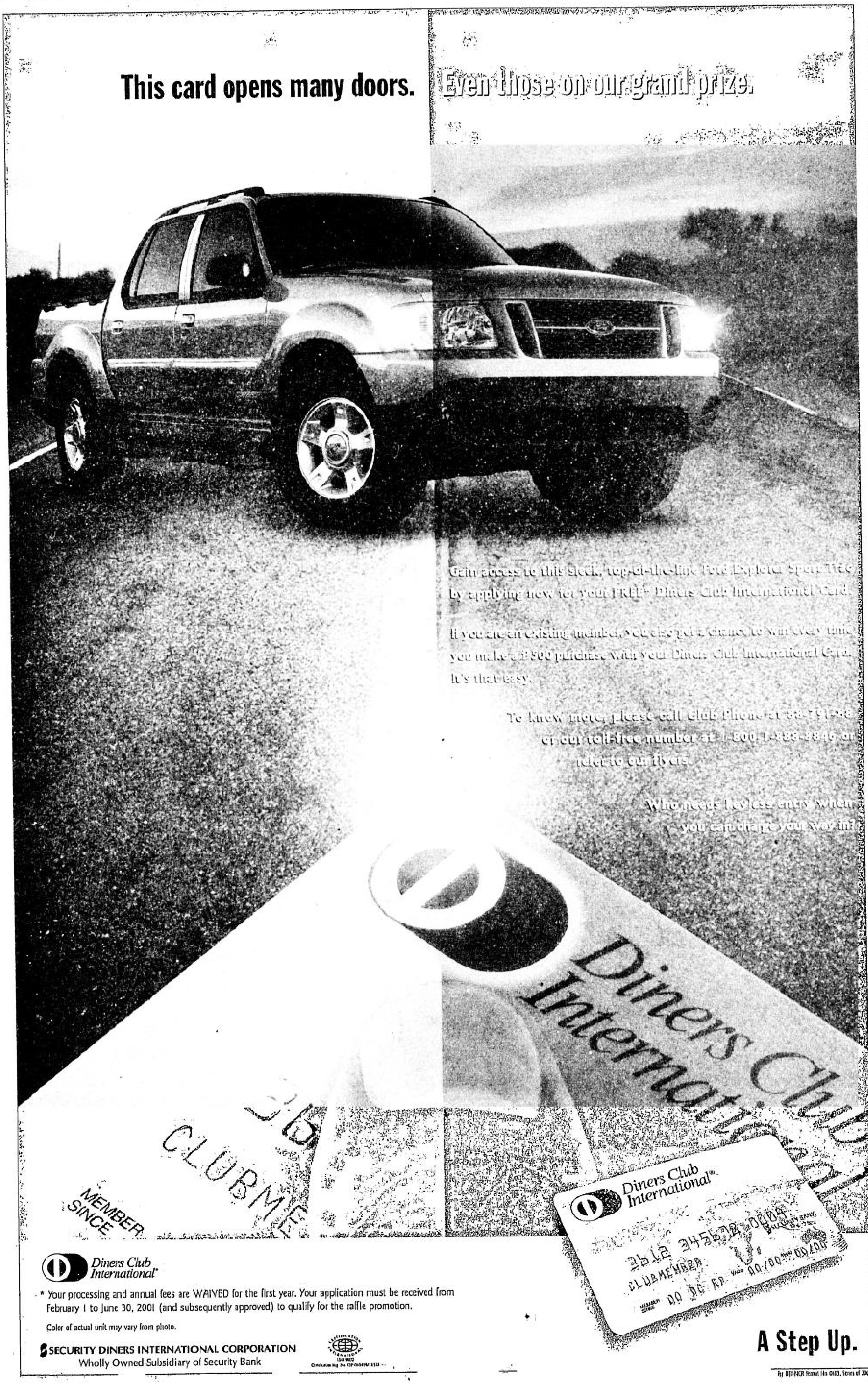
The 1.5-point reduction that has occurred in three half-point moves starting on Jan. 3 marked the biggest period of Fed easing since a 1.75-percentage slash in rates in late 1984, when Paul Volcker was Fed chair.

Some analysts said the negative market reaction to this week's move was a case of investors getting too impatient, especially when viewed in light of the Fed's strong signal that it planned further rate cuts in coming months.

"The important fact to keep in mind is that the Fed is providing significant stimulus to the economy and eventually that will help corporate profits and the stock market's performance," said Lynn Reaser, chief economist at Banc of America Capital Management Inc. in St. Louis.

And that boost will occur in the time-tested way with lower interest rates stimulating consumer and business borrowing for big-ticket items that are financed with loans: homes, autos and appliances.

Commercial banks, as they always do, matched the Fed's cut in rates on Tuesday with a half-point reduction in their prime lending rate, the benchmark for millions of short-term business and consumer loans from home equity lines of credit to auto loans and credit card loans. *AP*



This card opens many doors. Even those on our grand prize.

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* Your processing and annual fees are WAIVED for the first year. Your application must be received from February 1 to June 30, 2001 (and subsequently approved) to qualify for the raffle promotion.

Color of actual unit may vary from photo.

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A Step Up.

Malaysia talks big, but fails to deliver

KUALA LUMPUR—Too many Malaysian companies are talking big but failing to deliver, analysts say, amid a growing debate about the way the country's companies are run.

When Nexnews.com Bhd last week aborted a much-hyped plan to buy a newspaper publisher, the aspiring media firm became the latest in a series of firms to backtrack on a grand strategy.

"As an investor, you just have to be careful and train yourself not to trust everything companies announce," Gan Min Soo, chief investment officer at Felda Investment Management, said.

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad delivered a typically bullish defense of Malaysian corporate governance standards at a conference on Tuesday, saying they were better than in many other countries.

"Of course perceptions differ, standards differ. For many people, it's not good enough, and they keep hammering this poor governance in Malaysia," Mahathir said, while questioning whether it was really a factor deterring investors.

Unarguably, companies who build up hopes only to disappoint get short shrift in the market.

Nexnews shares hit an all-time high of 13.70 ringgit in April 2000 as businessman Tong Kooi Ong took over the former jewelry maker trumpeting ambitions of building a media empire.

One year on, the stock is near-record lows of 1.60 ringgit after Nexnews said on March 14 it had scrapped the purchase of Sun Media Corp., publisher of the Sun English-language daily.

Other examples of big plans that came to naught abound.

"It is very, very common in Malaysia. It has become a norm," Gan told Reuters. *Reuters*

HSBC prepares for exodus amid possible fee rise

HONG KONG—Britain's banking giant HSBC Holdings plc has warned its employees of the likelihood of an exodus of smaller depositors next month, apparently because of plans to increase fees and charges, according to a newspaper report.

HSBC's employees were asked not to take holidays so that they could help deal with the anticipated exodus, the South China Morning Post cited an industry source as saying.

The source said bank employees had been informed that a "striking" announcement, believed to center on customer fees and charges, would be made on April 2.

The report said the bank is preparing to take measures to cut costs ahead of interest rate deregulation in July.

HSBC said it had no comment to make on the report.

"The bank has no comment on speculation," a bank spokesperson said when asked for reactions.

HSBC has been widely reported to be planning to follow Standard Chartered's decision to impose a monthly fee. Standard Chartered is to charge clients with balances under HK$10,000.

HSBC was reported to be planning a HK$5-per-withdrawal charge on customers who use cash machines more than twice in one week.

Other reports speculated the banking giant would impose various service charges to penalize clients with low balances and that it would close down a large number of branches. *AFP*

Peugeot, Toyota in talks to share auto platform

TOKYO—French carmaker PSA Peugeot-Citroen and Japan's Toyota Motor Corp. are eyeing to share a platform in their tie-up talks, the Nihon Keizai Shimbun has quoted Peugeot's chair as saying.

"We are discussing various subjects with Toyota, including possible cooperation on a platform," Peugeot chair Jean-Martin Folz said in an interview with the Japanese business daily.

The platform is the basic production framework to build a car. Building multiple models on the same platform enables a carmaker to slash costs.

"It is a cooperation to develop or produce some car parts in common," he said.

Folz noted tough European environmental regulations and price-cutting competition have forced the French maker to seek a partner.

The report came after the two firms acknowledged last week that they were in talks, while declining to elaborate further.

A report here said earlier the possible collaboration was over small cars, with the aim of launching a holding company by 2004 for annual production of 400,000 units. *AFP*

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BUSINESS Friday

MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Business Features Editor

MAXIMIZING THE POWER OF SIGNAGE

Does billboard advertising work?

BY DENNIS M. ARROYO

THOSE who passed daily through the corner of Edsa and Ortigas may have noticed the shift. In 1985 the billboard at the intersection bore the message, "God listens. Pray the Rosary." It stood as a silent witness during the build-up of the election campaign to unseat President Ferdinand Marcos.

Then came the Edsa Revolution in 1986, and crowds praying the Rosary stopped the tanks at that very spot. The billboard message was changed: "God answers."

Perhaps most billboards won't live to herald a revolution. But they are nevertheless effective. How then can firms maximize the power of their sign advertising? Check out the "Outdoor Media Effectiveness Study" done by marketing guru Eduardo Roberto. This is a first in its field.

Roberto is a professor at the Asian Institute of Management. He is also the marketing research head of Basic Advertising.

As a background, the billboards try to reach the mobile market, those on their way to work, school, or home. They extend the branding and imaging efforts of the companies that put them up.

Total aided awareness leads to the motivation to buy the product. Then this motivation results in actual buying behavior.

The study involved 500 respondents in Metro Manila and another 500 in Metro Cebu. They were screened to cover only those who passed by the test billboard in the last two months, and those who bought the specified product in the past three months.

The face-to-face interviews were conducted simultaneously in Manila and Cebu from June 12 to 25, 2000. The survey arm was the Asia Research Organization.

In the Manila test, Billboard A targeted all socioeconomic classes.

Billboard B focused on class AB, or the rich.

DOES/ C3

Against the odds Nokia sees design as key to success

ESPOO, Finland—When economies turn sour people spend less on frivolous items such as fashion.

So in these hard times when the mobile phone industry is in a slowdown why is Frank Nuovo's budget not cut?

After all, the only thing the American does as chief designer at Nokia is making phones look and feel better.

But that is exactly the point. Anyone can make a tiny featherweight mobile phone these days, a point shown by small upstarts such as Britain's privately owned Sendo, a two-year old company which has just landed deals with Britain's mobile operator Virgin to supply minuscule phones.

As the technology to make a phone becomes more mainstream, design becomes more important to make the product stand out, especially in a mature marketplace.

"I like to compare eyewear and watches to mobile phones," Nuovo says. "They're like sunglasses. You always want a new pair that's in fashion, that's the latest."

In a way Nokia has become the mobile industry's Swatch, which created an entire new industry by making popular design watches at low prices.

Under Nuovo the Finns were the first to build phones with removable multi-colored fronts and backs, built-in antenna, and even a phone that looked like a lighter.

The big question is whether Nokia's success can be replicated in years to come.

Nuovo—who likes to compare himself to a watch designer and runs a team of more than 100 creative staff—admits it is no easy task for him or the company, which has a history in pulp, toilet paper and rubber boot manufacturing.

"We've got a lot of challenges ahead," he told Reuters in an interview at the company's headquarters. "It's easier to get to No. 1 than stay at No. 1."

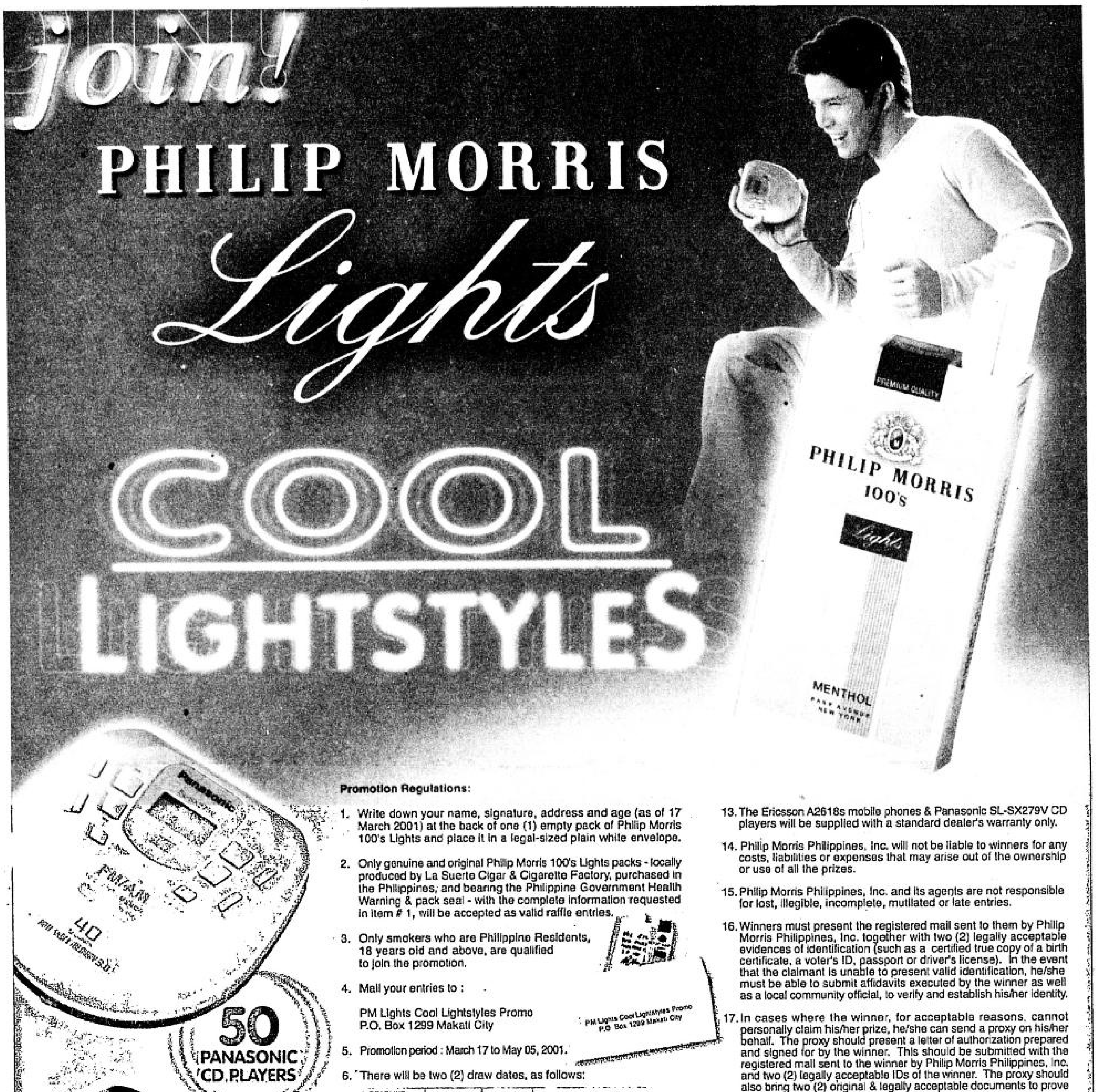
Tailored phones for specific audiences

Nokia shot up to become the world's largest cell phone maker, overtaking Motorola in 1998, in just a few years as it put a lot of money and time into design when the others didn't.

While rivals were still hiring engineers, the Finnish ompany was recruiting marketing experts, sociologists and fashion specialists, targeting specific audiences with tailored phones.

"We've enabled people to make their phones

AGAINST/ C3



Promotion Regulations:

1. Write down your name, signature, address and age (as of 17 March 2001) at the back of one (1) empty pack of Philip Morris 100's Lights and place it in a legal-sized plain white envelope.

2. Only genuine and original Philip Morris 100's Lights packs - locally produced by La Suerte Cigar & Cigarette Factory, purchased in the Philippines; and bearing the Philippine Government Health Warning & pack seal - with the complete information requested in item # 1, will be accepted as valid raffle entries.

3. Only smokers who are Philippine Residents, 18 years old and above, are qualified to join the promotion.

4. Mail your entries to :

PM Lights Cool Lightstyles Promo
P.O. Box 1299 Makati City

5. Promotion period : March 17 to May 05, 2001.

6. There will be two (2) draw dates, as follows:

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES	RAFFLE DRAW	WINNERS AD	NO. OF WINNERS/PRIZES
April 05	April 07	April 16	25 Ericsson A2618s mobile phones 25 Panasonic SL-SX279V CD players
May 05	May 12	May 21	25 Ericsson A2618s mobile phones 25 Panasonic SL-SX279V CD players

7. Each participant can only win one prize in each draw. If a participant's name is drawn twice, he/she automatically gets the prize with a higher value and a winner for the prize with a lower value will be re-drawn.

8. All non-winning entries in the First Draw will be included in the Second Draw. All non-winning entries accumulated after the Second Draw will be discarded in the manner prescribed by DOH-BFAD and witnessed by its representative.

9. All prizes are not convertible to cash.

10. All winning raffle entries will be drawn and validated by representatives of Philip Morris Philippines, Inc., its Advertising Agency and DOH-BFAD.

11. The names of the winners will be published in a Winners Ad in the Philippine Daily Inquirer or The Philippine Star on the dates listed in item # 6. By participating, the winners agree to the inclusion of their names in the Winners Ad. Winners will also be notified by registered mail to further explain how, where & when the winners can claim their respective prizes.

12. Prizes not claimed within sixty (60) days after the winners receive the notification letters from Philip Morris Philippines, Inc. will be forfeited, with prior approval of DOH-BFAD.

13. The Ericsson A2618s mobile phones & Panasonic SL-SX279V CD players will be supplied with a standard dealer's warranty only.

14. Philip Morris Philippines, Inc. will not be liable to winners for any costs, liabilities or expenses that may arise out of the ownership or use of all the prizes.

15. Philip Morris Philippines, Inc. and its agents are not responsible for lost, illegible, incomplete, mutilated or late entries.

16. Winners must present the registered mail sent to them by Philip Morris Philippines, Inc. together with two (2) legally acceptable evidences of identification (such as a certified true copy of a birth certificate, a voter's ID, passport or driver's license). In the event that the claimant is unable to present valid identification, he/she must be able to submit affidavits executed by the winner as well as a local community official, to verify and establish his/her identity.

17. In cases where the winner, for acceptable reasons, cannot personally claim his/her prize, he/she can send a proxy on his/her behalf. The proxy should present a letter of authorization prepared and signed for by the winner. This should be submitted with the registered mail sent to the winner by Philip Morris Philippines, Inc. and two (2) legally acceptable IDs of the winner. The proxy should also bring two (2) original & legally acceptable documents to prove his/her identity.

18. All decisions of Philip Morris Philippines, Inc. and its agents are final and no correspondence will be entered into. The draw shall be void where prohibited or restricted by law.

19. Employees of Philip Morris Philippines, Inc., their affiliates, subsidiaries, distributors, dealers, suppliers, advertising and promotional agents, DOH-BFAD representatives and employees of La Suerte Cigar & Cigarette Factory, as well as their relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity, are not qualified to join this promotion.

50 ERICSSON CELLPHONES
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12:35

Only smokers (Philippine Residents) 18 years old and above, are qualified to join the promotion.

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0154, Series of 2001

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Filipino pearl shakes invade foreign shores

By Joel V. Nigos

IN NOVEMBER 1999, a group of three budding entrepreneurs thought of putting up Orbitz Pearl Shake, an innovative cool beverage drink in natural flavors mixed with pearls—dark, spherical, chewy balls made from yam and tapioca.

Thousands of cups later, the three entrepreneurs are ready to expand to the international market.

"We want to be known in other countries, diversify our products and eventually become a fast-food restaurant that is affordable," says Michelle Chang, Orbitz president, who believes that Orbitz can compete globally just like other Filipino companies.

Chang, one of the three co-founders of Orbitz and a Marketing graduate of De La Salle University, says the company has set its sight on the United States, Australia and in Asia. The first Orbitz Café is scheduled to be opened in Daly City in San Francisco, California, in August or September this year.

CHANG

"Our company's research and development team has tied up with the research and development divisions of other companies like Nestle Philippines to further improve existing flavors and to introduce new products," says Joel Tuquib, Orbitz sales director.

Orbitz Café, which opened its first outlet in Greenhills in November last year, now offers more than just pearl shakes. It has expanded into sandwiches, puddings, entrees, desserts, various sodas and milk teas. Also included in their product line is the Chococcino, a product of Orbitz and Nestle's R&D team.

Out of this
ORBITZ
Chococcino
NESCAFÉ

YOU can get an Orbitz franchise for P250,000

"The company also has prepared a comprehensive marketing plan to introduce and promote Orbitz Pearl Shake," adds Tuquib, an Economics graduate from University of British Columbia in Canada.

Popular young actor Rico Yan, Orbitz marketing director, is its official endorser. He joined the group in mid-2000.

"We have continuos promotions which includes mall and campus tours. Advertisements in broadcast and print media are also in place to guarantee brand awareness and daily sales," Tuquib relates.

Orbitz's current promo is the "buy two, take one" which runs until April 16. Orbitz also plans to revive a promotional craze where premium items will be given out to customers. Tuquib, however, declines to give further details.

Orbitz has 150 branches in major shopping malls and in areas outside Metro Manila which it expects to grow by another 200 by the end of the year.

Orbitz, a subsidiary of Metro Grind Corp., was re-launched in March last year with a new look and a new expansion mode—franchising.

Prospective franchisees have to go through extensive training as well as their staff in customer service.

"The franchise fee is P250,000 which covers everything from the cart, supply of raw material, training of franchisee and staff, including the balloons," says Tuquib.

Management techniques from cash flow management to par level inventory system to technical support are also given to franchisees.

"All a prospective franchisee needs to open his new outlet is the ribbon-cutting," Tuquib says.

And if you're lucky, you may even have Rico Yan to grace your launching.

Why settle for just a piece?

Card firm sheds off exclusive image; runs after younger middle market

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

MARKETING STRATEGY

DINER'S Club, the country's first credit card company, has long been associated with prestige and exclusivity.

Perhaps this is why only a small slice of the market still knows what Diners Club is about. But its cardholders are getting old, and its campaign swamped by the aggressive advertising and marketing gimmicks of the new entrants in the lucrative and still growing credit card business.

Faced with a shrinking market share, Alex G. Ilagan, general manager of Diners Club International, says Diners decided to embark on its own aggressive campaign with the end goal of reclaiming its leadership position in the credit card industry.

Called the "Step Up" campaign, it covers everything from increasing its visibility in the market by going to the malls where the customers are, beefing up the features of the credit card, providing additional services to the cardholders and buying more advertising space in newspapers, TV and radio.

It is also revising the rewards program to provide better items to cardholders and introduced the Club Concierge concept where cardholders can call Diners Club for home assistance services. A member can call the Club Concierge 24 hours a day to contact a locksmith, plumber, experts in electrical and emergency doctor's home consultation services.

Diners Club International

Cardholders also get free access to airport and business lounges in major cities all over the world. In Manila, a Diners Club holder can avail of a 40-percent discount in Club Manila fees.

"The idea is to give the brand a facelift. The idea behind the program launched last year is not just about cosmetic changes but real changes in the features of the card because we want to get the numbers we need in this market," Ilagan explains.

Diners Club, for instance, automatically upgraded the local cards of qualified members to international. It also relaxed the application rules to capture the middle to upper income brackets.

The minimum monthly payment was also reduced and credit lines were increased to as much as three times the monthly salary, compared to only 2.5 times for other credit card companies.

"When we looked at the market, we saw that almost every card company offers the same features. What we did was to see what else we can provide to build the market of Diners Club. We used to be very exclusive but it is not sustainable to concentrate on only a small part of the market so we are targeting more of the youth and middle income markets," Ilagan says.

Another major feature of the campaign is the raffle for a Ford Sportrac, which is seen as the ultimate car of choice of the young urban professionals. Diners Club wanted to align itself with the youth market to remove the image that only their fathers or old people carry Diners Club cards.

Deductibility of interest for income tax purposes

By Noel P. Rabaja
SGV and Co.

TAX-FILES

AN INVESTOR who needs additional capital for his business will look for either a partner to provide the additional capital or a creditor willing to lend the necessary funds. There are several things to consider in deciding whether to have a creditor or a business partner.

From a tax perspective, though, it may be more advantageous to get a creditor to provide the funds needed in the business. Unlike profit distribution to a partner or dividends paid to a stockholder, interest paid to a creditor is generally allowed as a deduction for income tax purposes.

It is possible then for the business to recover part of its interest payments to the extent of the tax benefit (maximum of 32 percent which is the regular corporate income tax rate) that may be realized from the deduction.

However, to ensure that the business can maximize its tax benefit from the interest payments, it is important to understand the requirements for deducting the interest expense. These requirements were laid down recently by the Bureau of Internal Revenue in Revenue Regulations (RR) No. 13-2000 dated Nov. 20, 2000.

Under RR No. 13-2000, the BIR states that in general, the taxpayer can deduct the interest expense paid on debt used for trade, business, or exercise of profession from the gross income. However, it lists down the following requirements for deduction:

1. There must be an indebtedness;
2. There should be an interest expense paid or incurred upon such indebtedness;
3. The indebtedness must be that of the taxpayer;
4. The indebtedness must be connected with the taxpayer's trade, business or exercise of profession;
5. The interest expense must have been paid or incurred during the taxable year;
6. The interest must have been stipulated in writing;
7. The interest must be legally due;
8. The interest payment arrangement must not be between related taxpayers as mandated in Section 34(B)(2)(b), in relation to Section 36(B), both of the Tax Code of 1997;
9. The interest must not be incurred to finance petroleum explorations; and
10. In case of interest incurred to acquire property used in trade, business or exercise of profession, the same was not treated as a capital expenditure.

RR No. 13-2000 expounds on the last three requisites:

In relation to the eighth requisite, the BIR provides that no interest expense shall be allowed if the taxpayer and person to whom the payment was made are persons specified under Section 36(B) of the Tax Code of 1997, namely:

(1) Between members of a family. For this purpose, the "family of an individual" shall include only his brothers and sisters (whether by the whole or half-blood), spouse, ancestors and lineal descendants;

(2) Between an individual and a corporation more than 50 percent in value of the outstanding stock of which is owned, directly or indirectly, by or for such individual;

(3) Between two corporations more than 50 percent in value of the outstanding stock of each of which is owned, directly or indirectly, by or for the same individual;

(4) Between the grantor and a fiduciary of any trust;

(5) Between the fiduciary of a trust and the fiduciary of another trust if the same person is a grantor with respect to each trust; or

(6) Between a fiduciary of a trust and a beneficiary of such trust.

However, if the interest payment arrangement is between related taxpayers other than those specified, a deduction may still be allowed for the interest expense (subject, of course, to the other requisites for deduction).

In relation to the ninth requisite, the BIR explains that this is applicable to a service contractor engaged in the discovery and production of indigenous petroleum in the Philippines.

No deduction shall be allowed for interest or other consideration paid or incurred by a service contractor in respect of the financing of its petroleum explorations. This is pursuant to Section 23 of Presidential Decree (PD) No. 8, as amended by PD No. 87, otherwise known as "The Oil Exploration and Development Act of 1972."

In relation to the 10th requisite, the BIR makes reference to a new rule introduced in the Tax Code of 1997 [Section 34(B)(3)] regarding the optional treatment of interest expense on a capital expenditure incurred to acquire property used in trade, business or exercise of a profession.

At the option of the taxpayer, this type of interest may be allowed as a deduction in the year when incurred, or treated as a capital expenditure.

The RR No. 13-2000 also provides that the interest expense paid or incurred by a taxpayer in connection with his trade or business shall be reduced by an amount equal to the following percentages of the interest income earned which had been subjected to final withholding tax:

41 percent beginning Jan. 1, 1998
39 percent beginning Jan. 1, 1999
38 percent beginning Jan. 1, 2000 and thereafter.

This limitation is a new rule introduced in the Tax Code of 1997 [Section 34(B)(1)]. This was apparently intended to counter the tax arbitrage scheme where a taxpayer obtains an interest-bearing loan and places the proceeds of such loan in investments that yield interest income subject to a preferential tax rate (normally 20-percent final withholding tax).

Since the tax benefit that the taxpayer may realize from the deduction for the interest expense is higher (equivalent to the regular income tax rate) than the 20-percent final withholding tax on the interest income, the taxpayer may end up having net tax savings.

When the above new rule took effect on Jan. 1, 1998, an issue came up as to whether a taxpayer may claim full deduction for his interest expense without applying the limitation as long as he proves that he did not place the proceeds of his loans in investments subject to preferential tax rates.

BIR RR No. 13-2000, however, expressly states that the limitation shall apply regardless of whether a tax arbitrage scheme was entered into by the taxpayer or the date when the interest bearing loan and the investment was made.

It also provides that this rule shall be observed regardless of the currency the loan was contracted. Despite this development, though, there may still be a need for clarification as to whether banks and other financial institutions, in particular, are also covered by this rule.

Net income before interest expense	P 1,000,000
Less: Interest expense	P 120,000
Less: 38 percent of interest income from bank deposits (38 percent x P100,000)	P 38,000
Deductible interest expense	**P 82,000**
Taxable income	**P 918,000**
Income tax due (32 percent)	**P 293,760**

The application of the above rule is illustrated below.

Illustration: Assume the following:

1. In 1997, Company A obtained a loan from Creditor X in connection with its business, and the interest expense on this loan for the year 2000 amounted to P120,000.
2. Company A's taxable income for the year 2000 before deduction for interest expense amounted to P1,000,000.
3. Company A's interest income from its bank deposits amounted to P100,000 on which a 20-percent final tax of P20,000 had been withheld.

Under this example, the deductible interest expense, the taxable income, and the income tax due from Company A for the year 2000 shall be computed as follows:

Notwithstanding this rule, RR No. 13-2000 provides that the interest incurred or paid by a taxpayer on all unpaid business-related taxes shall be fully deductible from gross income and shall not be subject to the limitation prescribed above.

Thus, deduction for this type of interest expense shall not be diminished by the percentage of interest income earned which had been subjected to final withholding tax.

Based on the foregoing discussion, while interest incurred in connection with the taxpayer's business is generally allowed as deduction for income tax purposes, the application of the rules prescribed in RR No. 13-2000 may reduce the amount of interest expense that may be allowed as deduction.

NEW BRAND X
Reque

Does billboard advertising work?

(From page C1)

Then Billboard C was meant for classes C and D, or the middle class and the poor.

Roberto analyzed the data to determine the awareness rates for the billboard sites, and how effective they were in stimulating people to buy the products. He also wanted to know what were the important billboard attributes.

Visual recall

The research involved checking some variables. One was the proximity of the billboard to the nearest point of purchase (e.g. a store selling the advertised product). A second was the extent of competition or the presence of other billboards. A third factor was the call to action: verbal versus non-verbal.

The AIM professor also took into account traffic flow visibility, the dimensions of the billboard (in square feet), illumination or having lights, and the use of neon signs.

For example, Billboard B in Manila was up against two billboards from competitors and six other non-competitors. It was 500 meters away from the nearest point of purchase.

The Manila test Billboard A enjoyed a relatively high incidence of aided awareness, while Billboard B was least remembered. The incidence for seeing the ads was 64 percent for Billboard A, 39 percent for Billboard B, and 60 percent for Billboard C. Those were high rates.

Awareness was even greater among the Cebu signs: 91 percent for Billboard X, 89 percent for Billboard Y, and 79 percent for Billboard Z.

In Manila, 11 percent of those who saw the billboard could be translated into purchasers. The ratio in Cebu was similar, at 10 percent.

Here were some other averages from the test sites:

	Manila	Cebu
Tried reading all that was shown	35%	59%
Liked the design/layout	95	96
Liked the color	95	95
Liked the size	95	97
Liked the image/model	95	95
Liked the visibility of the billboard	94	96

The respondents noted that lighting was important.

Verbal vs non-verbal

In Manila, the research compared the effectiveness of the verbal call to action with the non-verbal. Billboards A and B had a verbal call to action. Billboard C was non-verbal.

Roberto found evidence of parity: the non-verbal calls were as effective as the verbal. And yet the non-verbal signs had a certain advantage. Among those who saw the verbal billboard, 36 percent tried to read all that was shown on it. The ratio was higher for the non-verbal billboard, at 52 percent.

What are the conclusions of the study?

One is that "billboards can be effective last-minute reminders or come-ons to induce product purchase," said Roberto in his presentation. They provide a high degree of motivation to avail of the products.

A second finding is that there are no significant differences between the effectiveness of verbal and non-verbal calls on billboards. However, more people tend to read all that is shown on billboards with non-verbal calls to action. Hence, the non-verbals may have the potential to be more effective.

"Billboards are generally perceived as visual media," adds the AIM professor.

Roberto also recommends the following. Use attractive, colorful design, turn to celebrity endorsers, rely on more graphic than textual layout, ensure that the lighting is good, and that the board is dominant in size.

Against . . .

(From page C1)

personal by allowing them to change the covers of a phone in a few seconds," says Nuovo, a former jazz musician who played five nights a week to pay his way through design school.

"If you're in the mood to see fruit colors because it might match a dress you're wearing then you can clip on a special cover for the day."

Nuovo says people do not care what kind of new hyped-up technology is packed inside a phone but rather whether it works well, looks cool and is fun to use.

"There's so much focus on technology," Nuovo says. "That's an important aspect but it has clouded the issue of the personal accessory value a phone has," he says. "It's an accessory item."

Nuovo's mark can clearly be seen on every phone Nokia has designed since 1989 when he came to the company after having worked as a patio furniture and car interior designer.

"I've even designed exercise machines," Nuovo says, laughing. "But when mobile phones came around I thought: 'This is cool. This is going to go somewhere.'"

Executives at Motorola, the world's second largest mobile phone maker, and Ericsson, the third biggest, admit Nokia was able to see how the market would develop.

"It's clear we were way behind when it came to seeing how important functionality and design was for consumers," a Motorola executive said. "We're still catching up."

Motorola and Ericsson are now dealing with these problems. The Swedish company recently hired a new designer and advertising agency.

Ericsson's research and development budget last year was about 4.1 billion euros ($3.7 billion) and spending on its handset unit is believed by some analysts to be about 30 percent of this, or some 1.2 billion euros.

Nokia, which has 70 percent of total sales generated by its cell phones, spent about 1.8 billion euros on research and development for phones and will spend more this year. *Reuters*

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ROBERT Kelvin follows the footsteps of his dad, Chowking founder Roberto Kuan, who followed his own father's path.

Young entrepreneur mixes old and new in Pinoy coffee shop

ARMED with good sense in the food business and guts, a 24-year-old entrepreneur has opened a contemporary Filipino coffee shop—mixing old and new. The Hot Cafe's first branch in the Power Plant Mall in Rockwell Center serves Filipino coffee and the all-time favorite *pandesal* with a variety of traditional fillings.

Ask him where he got the idea and the story takes you to his grandparents' time, in the days when the family-run Ling Nam could be found only in Chinatown. It goes on to his father, Robert Kuan's admirable founding of Chowking during the shaky economics of Edsa in the '80s, before finally getting to him.

Until 1999, this third generation food tripper and businessman was employed in a consumer corporation before striking out with his father to start Creative Dining. The company was envisioned to bring their bright ideas into a diner's reality. First up and hot off the oven is Hot Cafe.

Hot Cafe is located near the mall's supermarket, Rustan's Fresh. The 175-square-meter self-service outlet serves two selections of *pandesal*, the traditional crusty and flaky type or the healthy and no less tasty choice of whole wheat.

"It's a contemporary Filipino cafe, the kind that serves *kapeng mainit na puedeng sawsawan ng pandesal*. The coffee is barako-based and our chocolate is from the *bartirol*," explains Kuan. The lineup of *pandesal* fillings is as Filipino as provincial breakfasts with the sound of a lone tricycle, rooster crows and early morning marketers.

"We have five varieties of *longganisa*, *kesong puti*, Chinese ham and *queso de bola*, Spanish sardines and *pisto kilain*. We also have two kinds of hot chocolate, the *a* and the *e*. Hot Cafe also offers tips, light meals that you can have at breakfast, lunch or dinner or just as *merienda*," says Kuan.

The selections can be accompanied by rice or *pandesal* such as dumplings, fresh *lumpia*, sotanghon soup, *arroz ala cubana*, *arroz caldo* and *dinuguan*. Some pastries are also offered for the sweet tooth like rum cake. Hot Cafe will eventually package local coffee variety blends for consumers who want to brew it themselves.

With the artistic talents of Hot Cafe investor Claude Tayag, this cool cafe has cozy interiors with native touches. Its first outlet along Roxas Boulevard, where new menu offerings are tried and tested, has a growing following particularly during breakfast and *merienda*. The cafe serves its first hot *pandesal* at 6 a.m. and closes its doors by midnight. Kuan hopes to have 24 hour service in future branches within the year.

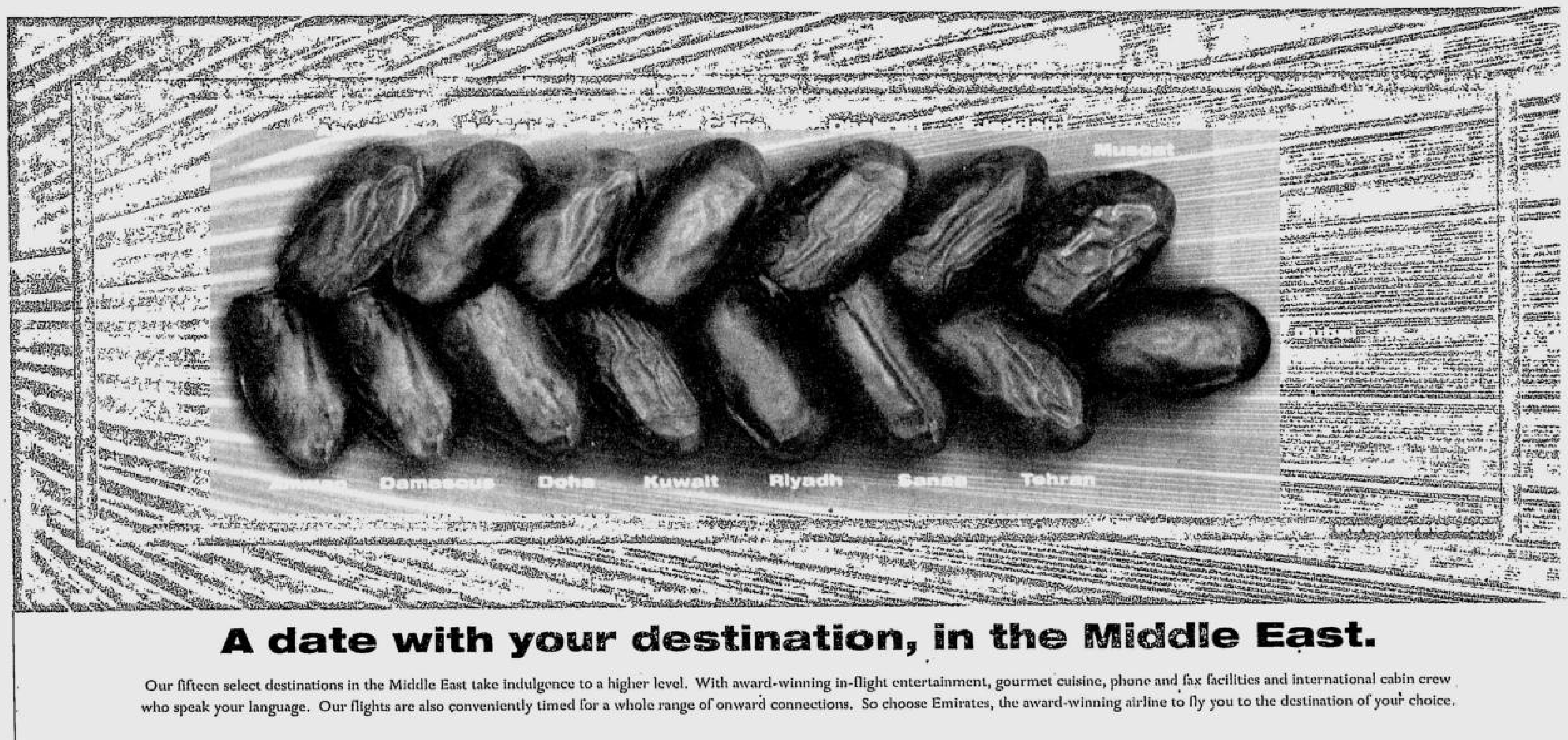
The bright outlook on expansion is not just from the considerable craze in coffee consumption among Filipinos.

Kuan targets three to four more store openings in popular hangout areas like Katipunan Avenue, across Ateneo de Manila University, his alma mater. Hot Cafe, in fact, serves as his entrepreneurial thesis at the Asian Institute of Management.

But Kuan says the best part of Hot Cafe as a project for Creative Dining is the opportunity to work beside his father and food business legend Robert Kuan. "Dad's a visionary. He's a leader. I might not reach his rung on the ladder, but I'll try to work with what I have," says Kuan.

What he does have is a lot of creative and business sense, qualities that take young entrepreneurs far. Next up, Kuan will be in the deep for Kingfisher, a seafood restaurant catering to family-sized appetites. Kingfisher will be Creative Dining's second food project.

The restaurant will come out of its shell soon at the Power Plant Mall also



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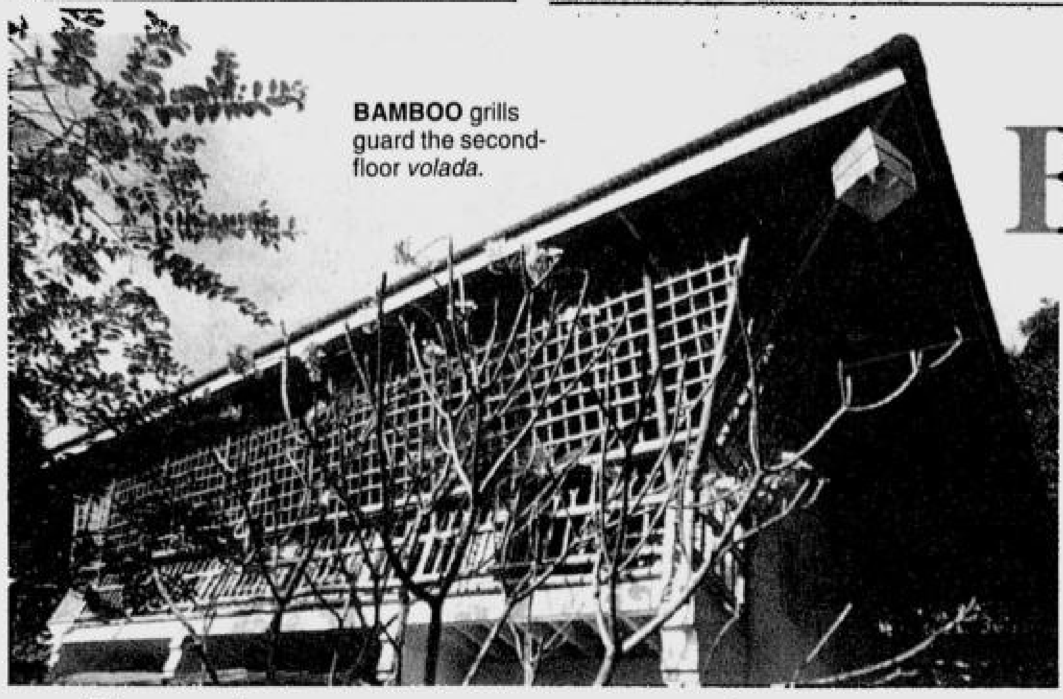
Bamboo in the wind



BAMBOO grills guard the second-floor *volada*.

Ning and Juju Tan's Quezon City house makes use of the lowly—and much neglected—weed in an architectural alchemy that combines hospitality, utility and grace

By Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Mike Alquinto

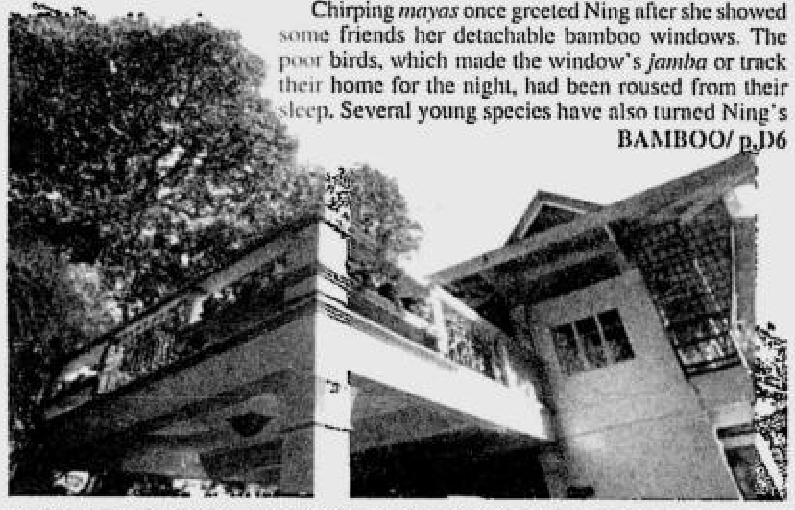
LIVING in a bamboo dwelling offers certain fringe benefits no concrete house could probably ever match. For one, such a house provides occupants with a front-seat view of life as it unfolds right before their eyes. Creatures we jaded urban dwellers take for granted, such as birds nesting in concealed areas and bats flying freely across the high ceiling from one open window to the other, have become almost-everyday occurrences inside this Quezon City home.

Despite the seeming difficulty of maintaining one, couple Ning and Juju Tan wouldn't live any other way. Ning, an architect, for instance, has never been keen about washing the dishes until they moved in sometime in 1996. The *banggerahan* made from spliced and bent bamboo grills inspired by similar rural homes has changed that. It allows her to see and experience the sun's warmth at different times of the day.

"It enables me to witness the passing season," she says. "Since the entire place is open to the outside, I feel plenty of life cycles taking place while I work. This house makes our lives more complete and gives us added security of being."

Chirping *mayas* once greeted Ning after she showed some friends her detachable bamboo windows. The poor birds, which made the window's *jamba* or track their home for the night, had been roused from their sleep. Several young species have also turned Ning's

BAMBOO/ p.D6



FUSION HOUSING. Elements of the traditional bamboo home and *bahay na bato* are combined in the Tan dwelling in Quezon City.

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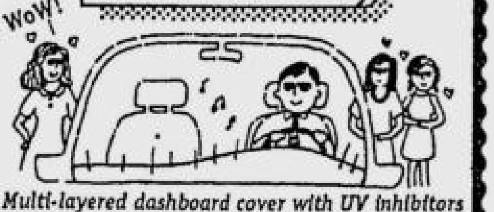

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"**ZEN** Fantasy" is a contradiction in terms. Japanese elements mix with the Filipino's love for excess.

Fantasy–and a little Zen–at Met museum shop

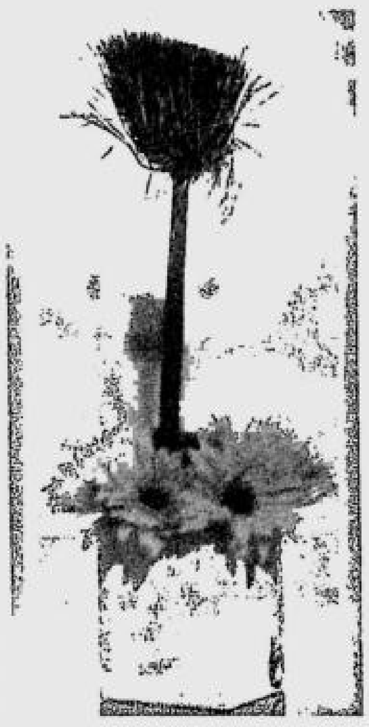
TO CELEBRATE Philippines-Japan friendship, the Metropo-litan Museum is holding an exhibit of Japanese dolls and kimonos. Design consultant Rachy Cuna echoes the subject matter in the museum shop, "Rachy at the MetShop."

The theme is contradictory. Titled "Zen Fantasy," the new collection is as lively as Rachy's personality but there's nothing really Zen about it except for the Japanese products. One thing's for sure, the objects speak to the people of the world of the refined, delicate and firm spirit of Japan.

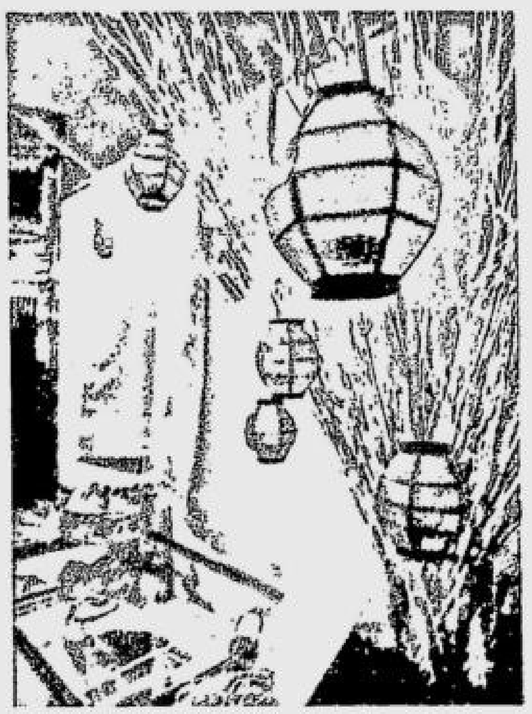
Rachy had collected the items from his travels

FANTASY/ p.D3

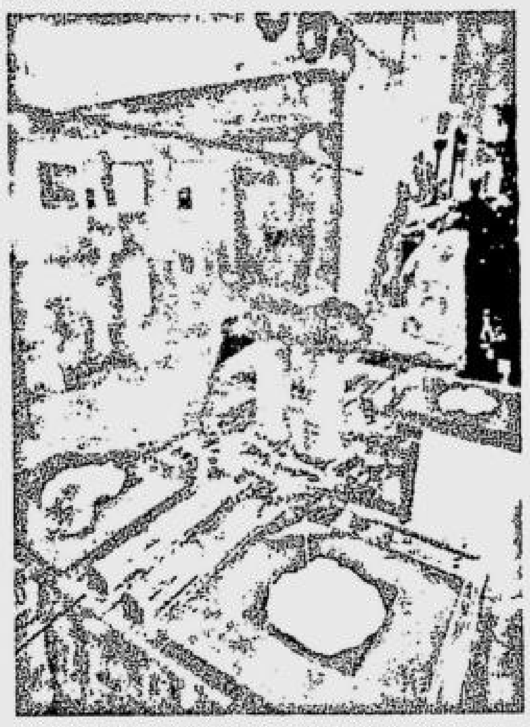
The Zen part may be a bit off but the fantasy part is just fantastic in Rachy Cuna's tribute to Philippine-Japanese friendship



PAPYRUS and gerberas in the sandstone vase



CAPIZ handsewn lanterns can replace the balls in your Christmas tree.



ORIENTAL table setting using local products—laminated *capiz* underplates, Ugu Bigyan's fish saucer, *abaca* runner, bamboo chopsticks holder and glass bamboo vase

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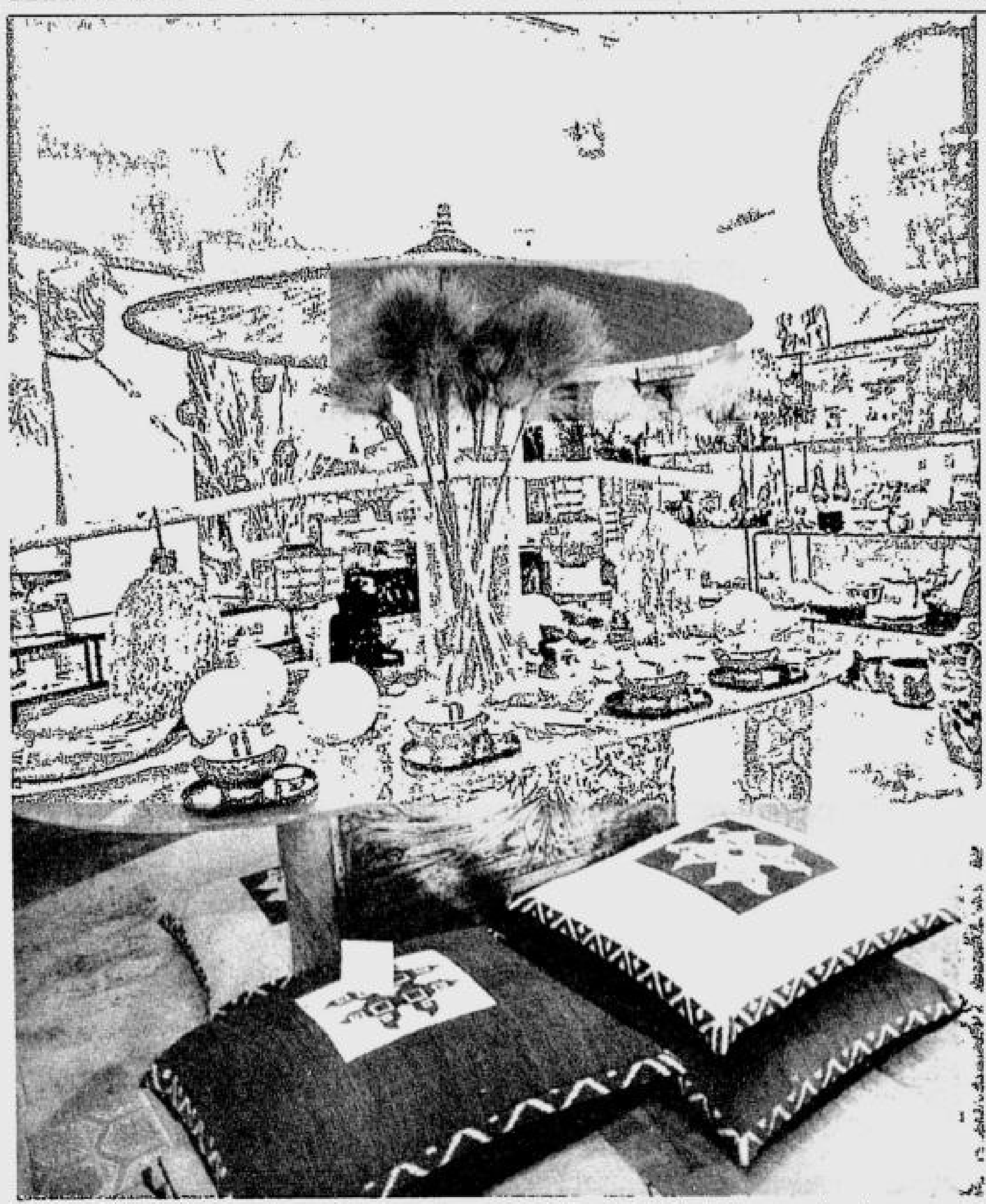
Ayala Alabang holds plant and garden exhibit

THE AYALA Alabang Village Homeowners' Garden Club will hold its annual plant and garden exhibit on March 25 at the Narra Park on Narra Street (behind La Salle-Ayala Alabang). Dr. Gregorio Alvior, overall exhibit chair, says this year's motif is "Gates and Entrances."

Club members will put up various types of gates and entrances landscaped or decorated with plants and flowers to look special and unique. Dr. Alvior says that gates, doors, pathways, hallways and corridors are very important to a home because it is the area where the host welcomes guests. But often these entrances are the least attended to when decorating the house. Through this exhibit, Alvior hopes that people will start giving more importance to their doors and gates and have an idea how to beautify them.

Club president Luisa Rodriguez says there will be a competition in various plant categories—orchids, ferns, bromeliads, cacti, bonsai, dishgardens, terrariums, aroids, palms, cycads. A commercial section will sell plants, garden materials, tools and accessories, fertilizers and pesticides at discounted prizes. There will be raffles, lectures and demonstrations as well as plant clinics.



RACHY Cuna's trademark table setting—a giant centerpiece consisting of a parasol and papyrus on a long vase, oriental bowls and grains of rice and lots of rice granary gods.

Fantasy–and a little Zen–at Met museum shop

JAPANESE coaster

(From page D2)

and put them up for sale at the shop.

The store features ornamented lacquer art such as sundries and ornaments. It is appreciated for its rich tones and high gloss.

Kimonos are used as decorative motifs. The elegance of the kimono derives more from the ambience created by the beauty of the fabric.

Lanterns are a classic component of the Japanese component of the Japanese garden and a worthwhile addition to the bonsai display area.

"Rachy at the MetShop" offers other Asian items that go with the theme such as Rachy's trademark jade Buddhas, rice soap and native baskets. He also commissioned suppliers to make Japanese lanterns done in capiz.

Rachy says if he took the Zen concept literally, there would only be one item to fit the theme in the Met shop. "Let's fantsize!" he exclaims.

"Zen Fantasy" is ongoing until the end of April at the foyer of the Metropolitan Museum of Manila, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Manila

Festive blooms and summer discounts

GEAR up for the summer season with the best bargains at Shop@thefort.sale, the summer bazaar on March 24 and 25 at the NBC Tent.

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Going out of town? Visit the bazaar's hobbyists adventure showcase where shoppers can find the best camping gear, hiking gadgets, mountain climbing equipment, aqua sports gadgets and many more.

Shop@thefort.sale also has a special section for books, bags and other school supplies for those who wish to have a headstart with their back-to-school shopping. It also features a garden fair at the forefront of the NBC Tent where plant lovers can purchase healthy greens for their own homes.

As an added treat, the entrance fee is waived for those who will sign up for an AIG credit card during the bazaar. Shuttle service to the NBC Tent is available at the Ayala Center terminal.

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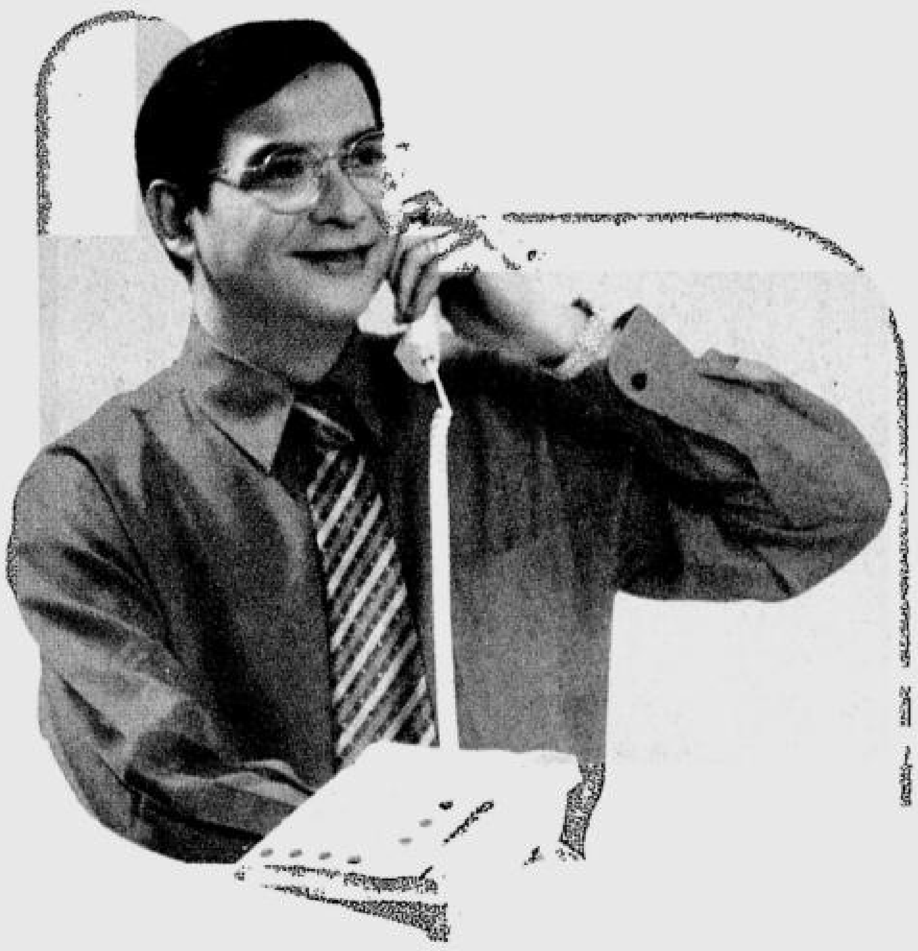

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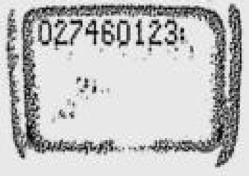

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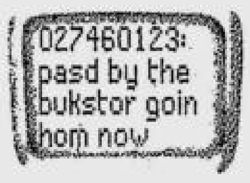

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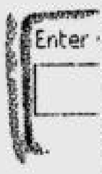

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2 To send your sel

1. Dial 1-900- TXT (1
2. Press 1 to send a m
3. Enter the number o
4. Press 2 to compose or four times for th
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Nature and nurture in a bamboo house

TO BORROW the words of former US First Lady Hillary Clinton, it takes an entire village to raise a child.

And ABS-CBN Foundation's Bantay Bata 163, under managing director Gina Lopez, intends to do just that as it embarks on building the Bantay Bata Children's Village on a sprawling 2.5-hectare property donated by Meralco in Norzagaray, Bulacan. Groundbreaking rites are set on Monday, months after construction firm D.M. Consunji first cleared the site for free.

"Our new home aims to provide long-term residential care," says Lopez. "I also envision it to be a center of excellence for the country."

HOUSES OF THE FUTURE. Scale model of Bantay Bata's Children's Village as envisioned by architect Ning Encarnacion-Tan.

Lopez plans to retain Bantay Bata's present home in Quezon City as a halfway house before wards are sent to the Children's Village. Once finished sometime next year, the two-story concrete-and-bamboo home will house Bantay Bata's wards while they lick physical and emotional wounds inflicted through years as battered or neglected children.

> For its sprawling Children's Village in Norzagaray, Bulacan, Bantay Bata will build bamboo homes with common areas and free space to unleash the child's creative and life-affirming spirit

PHOTOS BY JOHNNY VILLENA

TAN and ABS-CBN Foundation's managing director Gina Lopez

As such, architect-designer Ning Encarnacion-Tan, together with Lopez, project director Tina Monzon-Palma and design consultant Sarri Tapales, has taken into consideration the kids' special requirements. For one, the design and use of space in each cottage (they plan to eventually build 10) typify a typical Filipino home.

"The entire village has been designed to promote a healing environment," says Tan. "Bamboo symbolizes strength and resilience. It's also a versatile material that generates warmth while allowing the air to breathe."

Misgivings

At first, Lopez had some misgivings about the concept. And rightly so since she wants each cottage to last. She thought bamboo, aside from looking too rustic, won't be able to stand the test of time. It all depends on the proper treatment of bamboo and how it is combined with other materials.

Bukbok and other pests love to feast on starch found in bamboo poles. To bring down their starch level, Tan soaks them in water or borax solution for 15 days soon after they're harvested. She then applies three coats of Boysen silicon water repellent on the dried bamboo. Bamboo houses built in termite-infested areas require a coat of solignum or plain diesel fuel for good measure.

Tan, who has been working with bamboo for years, was finally able to convince Lopez to give the project the green light. Bamboo will be confined to sliding doors, windows and second-floor walls. Sliding doors lead to an *azotea* that encircles the entire second floor done in wood. Childproof wrought-iron railings will be taller, less slippery and sturdier than usual.

For practical purposes, Tan chose GI sheets for the roof, which will be insulated from the afternoon heat by fiberglass sheets. In lieu of laminated bamboo, she chose cheaper *runo* for the ceiling. The grass-like material is sourced from mountainous areas in the North.

Ample consideration has been given to the use of space. Just like in Filipino homes of yore, there will be plenty of multipurpose spaces. Divisions so common in Western dwellings will be pared down to a minimum.

Common area

Each cottage, designed for a particular age group, will have á common sleeping area on the second floor that can double as the children's classroom or play area, where they can interact, share experiences and swap stories by day.

"It's reassuring for children to live in such a setting," Tan explains. "At the same time, it will also give caregivers an easier time to look after the kids."

Soft, rounded corners believed to be more conducive to healing will supplant sharp ones. The same theme will prevail in common areas such as the kitchen, laundry room, meditation and administration houses.

In fact, the entire complex is designed to promote a better understanding of the life cycle through such areas as a rice farm, herbal garden and an animal sanctuary. These on top of the fresh air and shady, fruit-bearing trees that dot the village's elevated contours.

"It's important for these children to witness various life cycles as they unfold," says Tan. "Having been exposed to abnormal environment, it will be easier for them to get back into the groove of things."

And it will probably take a village of bamboo houses to do it.

Alex Y. Vergara

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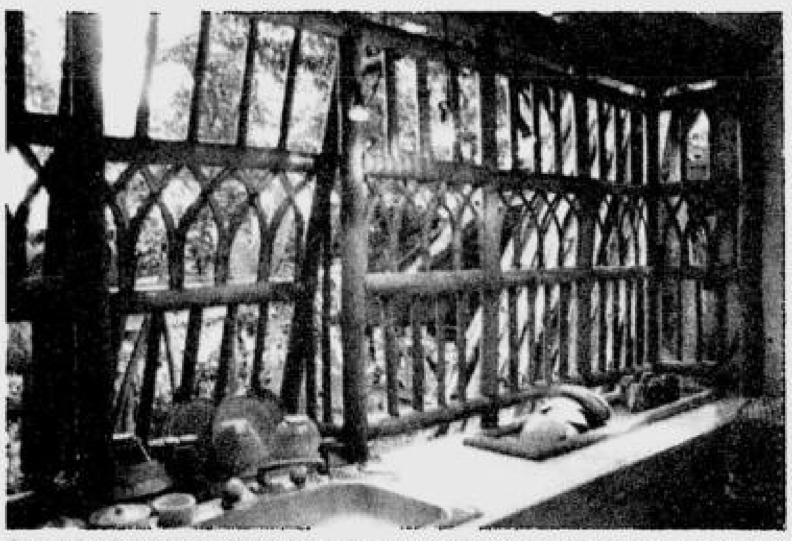

SEASONS IN THE SUN. The *banggerahan* allows the mistress of the house to feel the sun's warmth at varying times of the day.

Bamboo in the wind

(From page D1)

overhead shelves into a launching pad of sorts.

"Isn't it nice to know that some of these birds learned to fly in our home?" she gushes.

Ning hopes to duplicate this same serene ambiance as she embarks on building a permanent home for the wards of ABS-CBN Foundation's Bantay Bata 163 in Norzagaray, Bulacan (*See related story*).

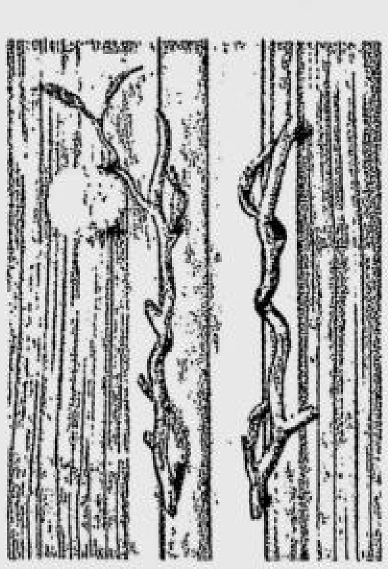
Fits and starts

She started work on her present house as early as 1994. Through a series of fits and starts, the couple was able to finally realize their dream home almost two years later. Before that, Ning had immersed herself in various forms of indigenous architecture since her high school days.

Soon after finishing college, Ning was tapped by writer Gilda Cordero-Fernando to do research on Filipino homes. Her work has brought her to as far as Panay Island where bamboo homes are still common. She also learned the reason, unlike most Asians and Latin Americans, Filipinos slowly lost the art of using bamboo in their homes.

"Americans campaigned against the use of indigenous materials from 1908 to 1911," she says. "They probably wanted us to import raw materials from them instead of using and developing our own."

Fortunately, there are still a few remaining souls left in Iloilo—and various rural areas—who are still adept with bamboo. Ning tapped the services of a carpenter from the province to guide and oversee the work of several Manila-based colleagues. She then sourced the best bamboo poles from Morong, Rizal.


WROUGHT-IRON cabinet handles are inspired by the *atis* fruit.

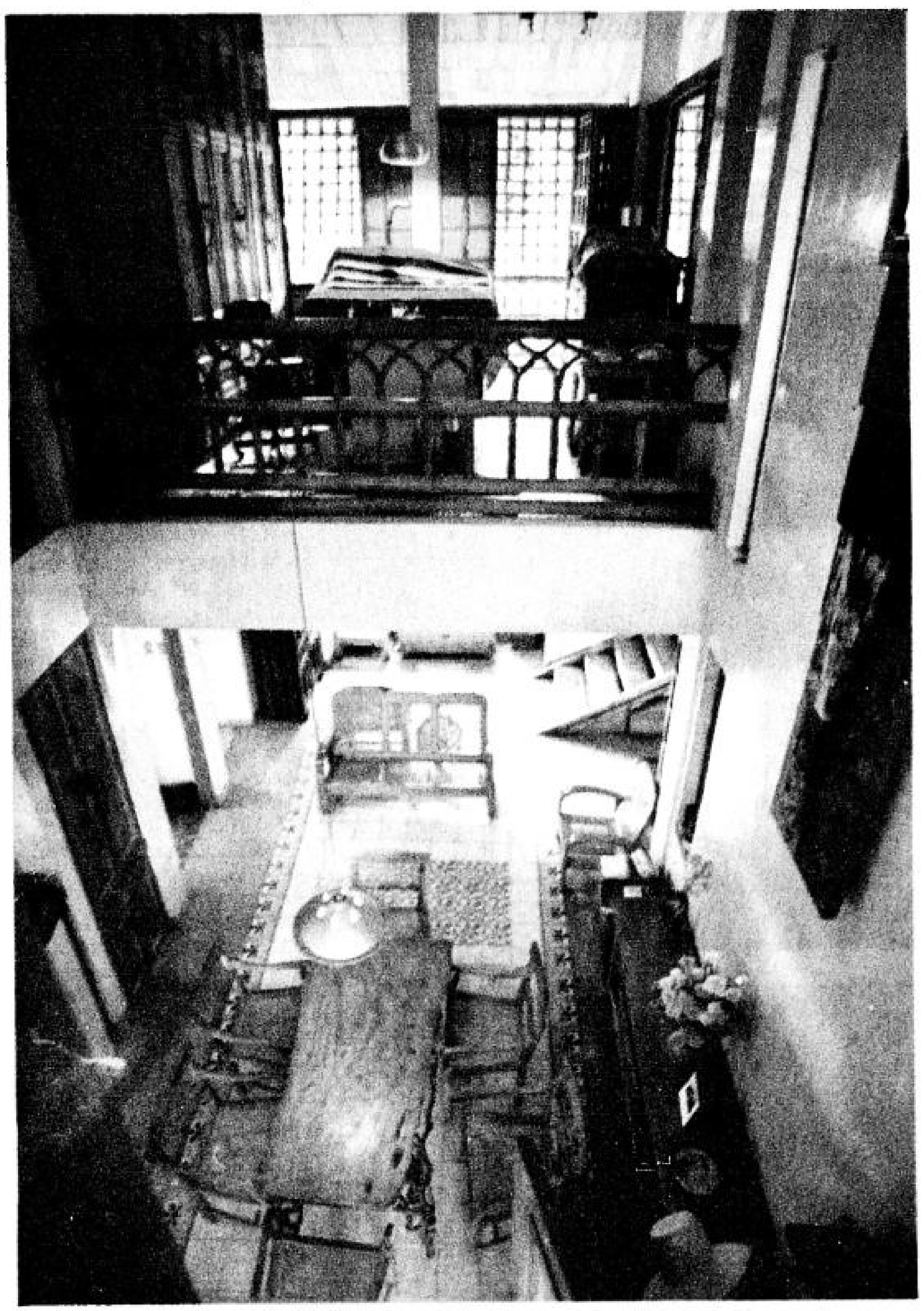
The two-story house is a fusion of bamboo, wood, concrete and GI sheets—a blend of the best elements found in an authentic bamboo home and a traditional *bahay na bato*. Concrete walls and posts are spruced up by bamboo railings, grills, cabinets, doors and ceiling.

Yes, doors and ceiling are made of warm "plyboo"—threshed bamboo joined together by resin. Ning got the idea from the ceiling of the Bontoc Museum, including its exposed trusses, but that one is made of treated *runo*.

The high, slanting ceiling is punctuated by a pair of skylight.

Several eye-catching paper lamps by Wendy Fernando Regalado dangle from the ceiling's wooden trusses. Built-in cabinets, closets and shelves are fashioned from cut and flattened bamboo framed by moldings made of the same material.

BAMBOO/ p.D7



SPACE WITHIN A SPACE. The walkway leads into a hall, which provides a sweeping view of the dining room below.

Bamboo in the wind

(From page D6)

Machuca tiles primarily in yellow and green are bordered by pebble washout, but the second floor, including the spiral staircase that winds around the trunk of a fallen tree, is made of bamboo slats. Creaking floors compete with the sound of chirping birds whenever Ning and Juju show their friends around the house.

"Bamboo slats are really durable," Ning assures. "You just have to know how to take care of them."

She's also the design consultant for the Cainta Bamboo Furniture Company (tel. nos. 655-8901/0143). The outfit recently introduced its so-called Cainta bamboo house, a modular and pre-fabricated dwelling made virtually of, well, bamboo.

Revealing

Bamboo slats, the virtual see-through material which doubles as the exposed ground floor ceiling, extend all the way to the bathroom downstairs. Squeamish guests would probably find it hard to answer nature's call under such conditions, but not the Tan couple.

"We don't have any qualms about it," she says. "Anyway, it's just the two of us sharing the house. But we find ourselves skirting the area upstairs everytime a guest uses the bathroom below."

The toilet upstairs is similarly exposed with huge swinging windows and *ventanillas* that extend to the tiled flooring. Bamboo grills guard the rest of the second-floor windows.

The concrete *azotea* is made more interesting, thanks to a series of Camiguin tiles in red and orange. In lieu of cold balusters, Ning used custom-built iron grills inspired by clingy vines by artist Joel Ajaero. The twisted metalwork extends to the cabinet handles each inspired by a certain native fruit with matching leaves.

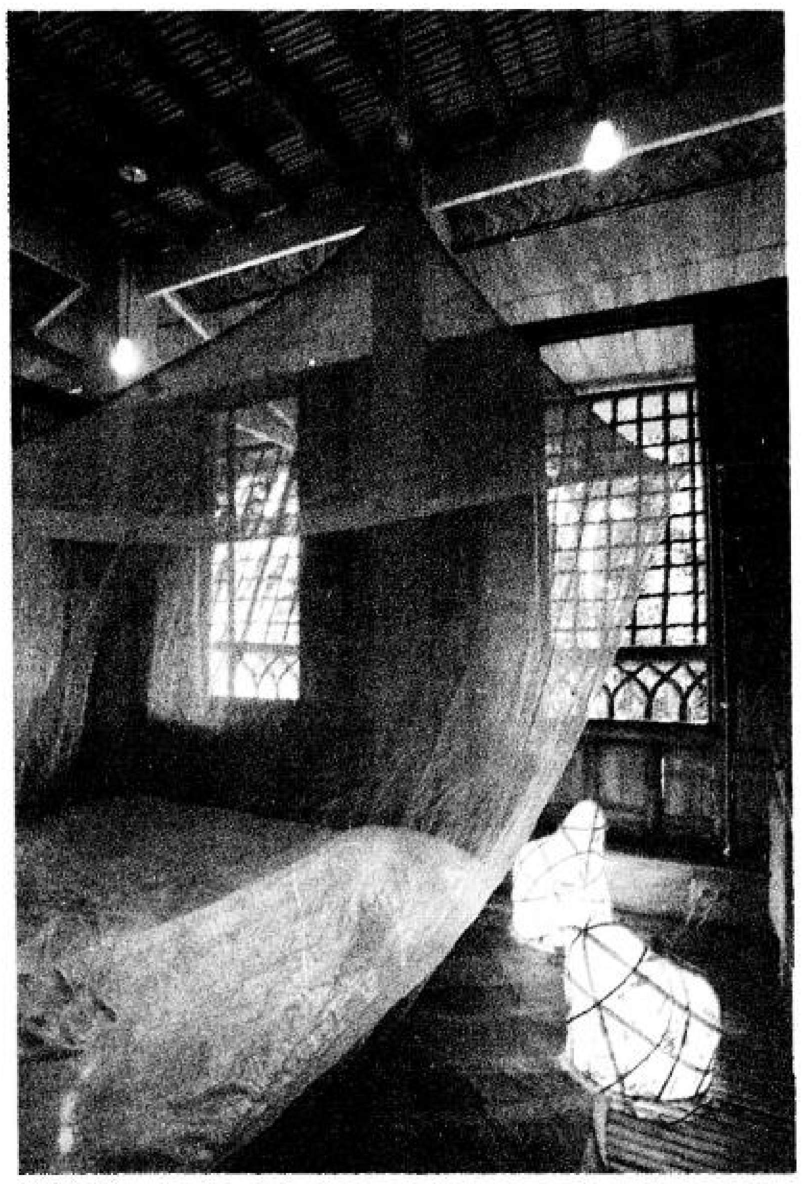
Like typical homes of yore, the Tan residence exemplifies the Filipino's fondness of living in a space within a space. A wall, for instance, separates the *volada* or walkway from an indoor hall that leads to a sweeping view of the dining room. For security and aesthetic reasons, bamboo railings separate the two areas. The unhampered space from the ground floor to the second-floor ceiling doubles as a vestibule.

A section of the lone bedroom's walls upstairs is made of flattened and framed bamboo with a pair of sliding windows that also open to the *hapag-kainan* below made of *molave* and supported by gnarled, root-like wrought iron feet. Several repros of Vigan chairs done in wood and *solihiya* complete the scene.

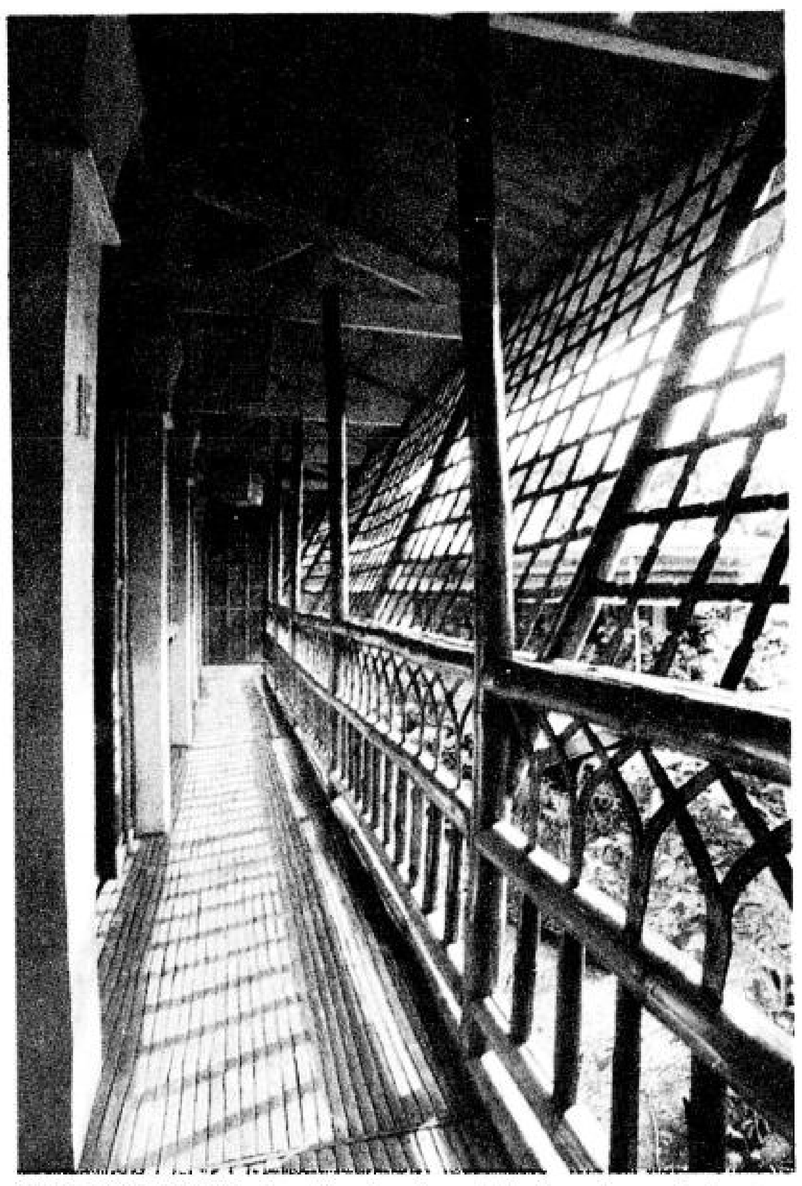
The only air-conditioned room in the house is Juju's office. Instead of bamboo slats, the room downstairs is insulated by concrete walls and plyboo ceiling. Even the couple's bedroom is free from air-conditioning and any form of screen. Thus, they find it necessary to use a mosquito net even during those rare moments when they find themselves taking an afternoon siesta.

The real worth of a nature lover is measured by her ability to live with it.

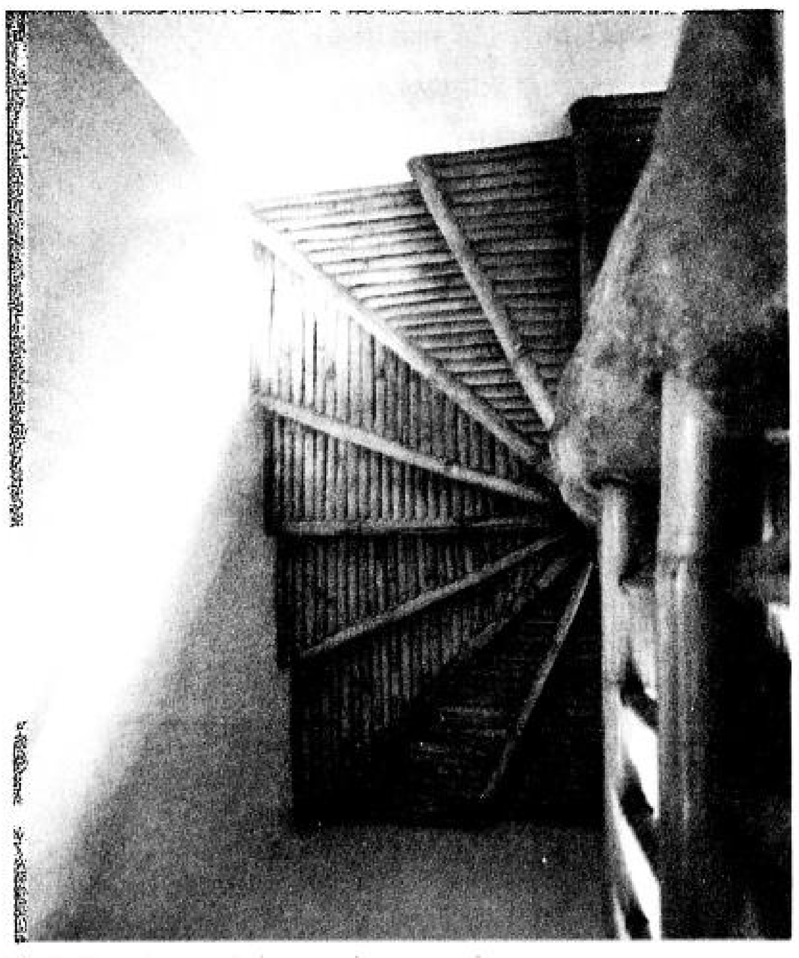
E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



WHAT MOSQUITOES? Ning does away with unsightly wire screens in favor of an old-fashioned *mosquitero.*



SQUEAKY FLOOR. Creaking bamboo slats form the *volada* or walkway, while spliced and bent bamboo grills make up the railings.



SPIRAL staircase winds around a tree trunk.

Go wild!

Join the Cathay Pacific International Wilderness Experience!

Saving the environment requires years of hard work and everyone's help – but it can start with you and nine days in South Africa. If you are a 16-18 year old Filipino student who wants to do your part in helping Mother Earth, you'll want to be part of the Cathay Pacific International Wilderness Experience. If chosen, you'll go on an all-expense paid trip to Johannesburg, South Africa from July 16-25, 2001! The 9-day program will expose you to the beauty of the African wilderness and teach you about man's impact on ecology. You'll also get to act as an "ambassador" for the Philippines and make friends with young people from other countries and cultures very different from your own.

Can't wait to join? Then write a 200-word English essay on an environmental topic that interests you, giving your personal opinion on the issue and possible solutions to the problem. Send it with the completed application form below, a detailed resumé and a copy of your valid passport on or before May 4, 2001. You could soon be on your way to the wilderness of South Africa and helping the planet!

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SIGNED ____________
(parent / guardian)

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SCHOOL ____________

DATE OF BIRTH ____________

MAILING ADDRESS ____________

ZIP CODE ______ TELEPHONE ____________
(office)

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POST YOUR APPLICATION FORM TO:

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105 Dela Costa Street Salcedo Village,
Makati City, Philippines
Cebu: Garden Level Door #8, Rivergate Mall
Gen. Maxilom Ave.,
Cebu City, Philippines

PLEASE POST THIS APPLICATION FORM, TOGETHER WITH YOUR CHILD'S TWO-PAGE ENVIRONMENTAL ESSAY, TO THE ADDRESS ABOVE. FOR MORE DETAILS, LOG ON TO www.cathayflytoafrica.iskul.org

N.B. Only applications which are accompanied by a two-page essay on the environmental topic of your child's choice, written in English, will be considered.

If you can't throw waste or burn it, what can you do?

USE a thermal processor, says J. Franklin B. Regis, president of Clean Earth Solutions Inc., a People's Organization (PO) which takes up civic and environmental causes.

His answer should allay the anxieties of all those who have been asking what it is they are supposed to do if they can't throw anymore garbage in landfills, and certainly can't burn it.

A solid waste thermal processor (SWTP), he explains, is an advanced type of incinerator, akin to that used in crematories, often referred to as "no-burn" technology. The thermal processor is a comparative newcomer in the waste management field, he says, but it is now replacing the old-style incinerator.

The SWTP is comparatively small with capacity for less than 10 metric tons of garbage a day, which makes it ideal for barangays and small communities. The latest SWTP is simple in design, operates

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

at 900-1,600°C, needs only one person to run it, is practically maintenance-free for many years, uses only 25-60 sq m of space, has a projected life span of 20 years, emits no dust, no smoke, no smell, all within government standards.

Regis reports that countries in Asia and Europe that have adopted such flexible waste management policies as segregation (reuse, recycle/compost), thermal destruction, energy recovery and landfill, are beginning to phase out landfill and large-scale incineration.

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

The Philippines, says Regis, must likewise phase out those two traditional solutions, which have proved to be no solutions at all. Landfills should be used to a minimum because of our deficiency in land. There are no appropriate sites for them. Rain and the floods accompanying it make the landfill system in the Philippines even more undesirable.

Large-scale incineration is out as much for its massive flue gas emissions as for the gargantuan cost to build, operate and maintain the necessary equipment.

As the ideal way to segregate is at source, unreusable, unrecyclable waste should also be destroyed at source. For our purpose, he adds, "at source" could be at the barangay level or wherever practical like in Villages, subdivisions, free trade zones, malls, hospitals and other commercial-industrial establishments where thermal processors can be easily installed. Eliminating waste this way becomes more doable because the amount of garbage to be disposed of is limited only to the barangay or subdivision or particular area using the technology. Regis adds that thermal processors comply with new emission standards set by international environmental laws.

Another important consideration is that segregation and destruction at source will generate tremendous savings for the economy because, for one, there will be less use of vehicles in transporting waste.

Segregation and pollution-free destruction are the answers and it can be done in Metro Manila.

Cathay sponsors 5th wilderness experience

FOR THE 5TH consecutive year, Cathay Pacific Airways will send four Filipino students to the Cathay Pacific Int'l. Wilderness Experience in South Africa.

The trip is the prize for four winners of a 200-word essay contest in English on any environmental topic of their choice. The Wilderness Experience is a nine-day (July 16-25) ecological course that has an average participation yearly of 60 students (ages from 16-18) from all over the world. The air tickets, course fee, meals, accommodations and ground transport in South Africa will all be sponsored by the airline.

Application forms are available at the following Cathay Pacific offices: in Manila, 25/F Trafalgar Plaza, 105 H. de la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City; in Cebu, 8 Rivergate Mall, Gen. Maxilom Avenue, Cebu City.

Students are required to submit their résumé, a copy of a valid passport and a completed application form. Deadline for application is May 4. For more information, call Jan Te, marketing communication executive, at 848-2701, or visit www.cathayflytoafrica.iskul.org.

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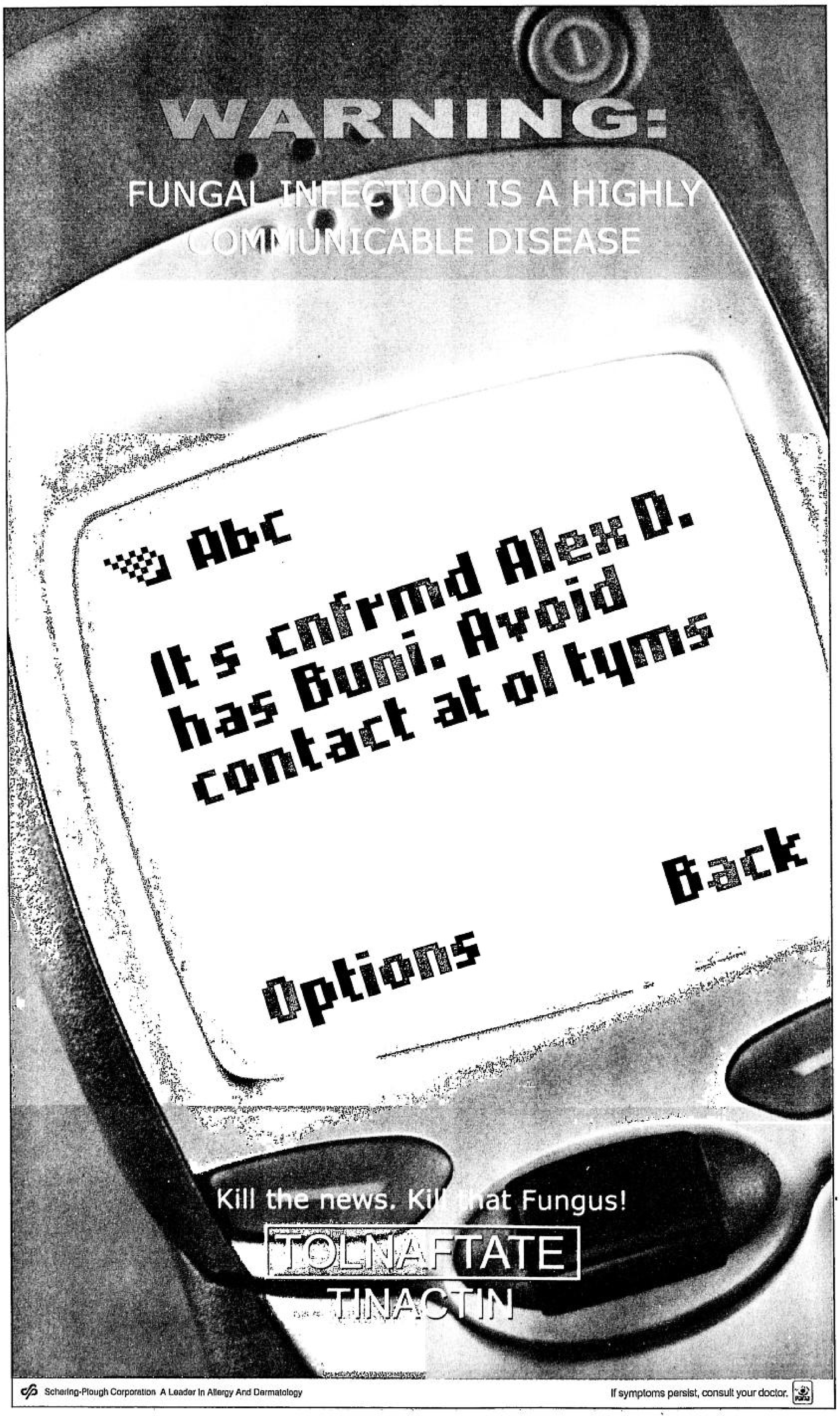
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Heny Sison

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

April 2 (Mon.) 10:00-4:00 p.m.	DIMSUM I By: Katherine C. Sion, restaurateur (Ding Hao & Fat Kat), caterer and an expert in Chinese Cuisine	P1,500
April 3 (Tues.) 9:00-11:30 a.m.	SOUFFLES by: Jill Sandique, Chef/Food Consultant & Food Stylist. Blue Ribbon graduate of Peter Kump's New York Cooking School.	P1,200
April 3 (Tues) 1:00-5:00 p.m.	ITALIAN COOKING III by: Jill Sandique	P1,500
April 4 (Wed.) 9:00-12:30 noon	CHILDREN'S BAKING I by: Jill Sandique	P1,200
April 4 (Wed.) 1:30-5:00 p.m.	COFFEE! COFFEE! COFFEE! by: Aileen Anastacio, Chef Food Consultant, owner of C'est Si Bon & Goodies & Sweet, graduate of culinary at the California Culinary Academy.	P1,200
April 5 (Thurs.) 9:00-12:30 noon	CHILDREN'S COOKING I by: Jill Sandique	P1,200
April 5 (Thurs) 1:30-5:00 p.m.	BAKED PASTAS by: Aileen Anastacio	P1,500
April 6 (Friday) 9:30-3:30 p.m.	ITALIAN COOKING IV by: Jill Sandique	P1,500
April 7 (Sat.) 9:30-3:30 p.m.	CREPE WORKSHOP by: Jill Sandique	P1,500
April 9 (Mon.) 10:00-4:00 p.m.	DIMSUM II by: Katherine C. Sion	P1,500
April 10 (Tues.) 9:00-3:30 p.m.	QUICK & EASY ITALIAN DESSERTS by: Jill Sandique	P1,200
April 16-20 23-27 (Mon.-Fri.) 9:00-4:00 p.m.	MASTER IN CAKE DECORATION/BASIC by: Heny Sison	P8,000
April 21 (Sat.) 9:30-12:30 noon	BASIC CAKES & ICINGS FOR BEGINNERS by: Heny Sison	P1,200
April 28 (Sat) 9:30-4:00 p.m.	BASIC FLOWER ARRANGEMENT by: Glenn Remorca, floral designer	P2,000
April 30 (Mon.) 9:30-3:30 p.m.	CAKE ART SPECIALTIES I by: Jill Sandique	P1,200
May 1 (Tues.) 9:30-3:30 p.m.	CAJUN COOKING II by: Jill Sandique	P1,500
May 2 (Wed.) 9:00-12:30 noon	CHILDREN'S BAKING II by: Jill Sandique	P1,200
May 2 (Wed.) 1:30-5:00 p.m.	PASTA GALORE by: Aileen Anastacio	P1,500
May 3 (Thurs.) 9:00-12:30 noon May 4 (Fri.) 9:00-4:00 p.m.	DANISH & PUFF PASTRY by: Jill Sandique	P2,500
May 3 (Thurs) 1:30-5:00 p.m.	A TASTE OF THAI by: Aileen Anastacio	P1,500
May 5 (Sat.) 9:30-4:00 p.m.	SPECIALIZED FLOWER ARRANGEMENT by: Glenn Remorca	P2,000

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LIFESTYLE

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor ▪ MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ, Subsection Editor

Trend Spotting

In self-defense, young women learn to kick you-know-what

Street crimes are getting alarming now, female drivers are not about to take things sitting down

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

CALL it call of the times, but apparently, my last week's column on bag-snatching experience was something many readers could relate to, and they were vocal enough to e-mail their own episodes. My e-mail inbox, in fact, was almost like a feel-good read because you realized yours could have been worse; others had worse encounters with pickpockets or street hoodlums, and they wrote to warn other readers against a variety of tricks.

A hotel/travel executive recounted the time just before Christmas when in a queue at a fast-food counter, he lost his entire staff's pay to a pickpocket. He had to reimburse it with his own money. He reminded me that situations such as his could only reinforce his faith that it is the spiritual things that count at the end of the day, that one's attachment to the material isn't all that worth it in the long run.

Another wrote about a ploy any motorist could fall for. So be warned. "At the stoplight," he wrote, "I glanced at the rear view mirror and saw a man approach the car. When he tapped on my passenger side window, I opened it a crack and asked what he wanted. He replied, *'May nag-i-ispark sa ilalim ng kotse...nasusunog.'* ('There are sparks under your car. Something is burning.') I glanced at my instrument panel and everything was ok...I yelled at him, *'Bayaan mong sumabog!'* ('Let it explode.') From the expression on his face I knew he was up to no good—he seemed so surprised at my seeming unconcern so that all he could mutter was 'Ha?' along with a sheepish grin. I slammed the window shut and drove off without waiting for the light to change..."

He shared a sadistic, if comic and ingenious, thought: "I sometimes wish I could invent a self-destruct device for cell phones which the owner could activate by transmitting a code to the unit in the event it is stolen. We would begin to see a lot of maimed individuals on Taft Avenue, Cubao and the University Belt. A lot of shops in Recto would also be destroyed in a cataclysmic explosion, along with the fake diploma shops and the condemnable eyesores of buildings they're housed in. It's a wonderful thought, but it's illegal and I don't have the know-how."

Then he turned insightful: "Don't try to console yourself that whoever snatched your bag needed the money to feed his children or buy medicine...Whoever did it is probably using the money to buy *'pulutan'* or worse, his daily dose of drugs. That's the irony of it. If these individuals could put their intellect into finding legitimate ways of making money, their lives would improve. All they ever think of is getting rich the quick and easy way, that's why *jueteng* and other forms of gambling are so popular. They pin their hopes on a candidate for public office, then curse that individual if their lives don't improve, without realizing that if they don't help themselves they really won't go anywhere...Consider yourself avenged. A year or even 20 years from now they'll still be living their miserable pathetic lives. On the other hand, you've become a better and wiser person."

Then he clarified that he wasn't being anti-poor. "My grandmother used to be a maid. We've come a long way from there through sheer hard work."

Despicable acts

That was an interesting e-mail. To clarify, I really didn't feel all that bad about my own experience but thanks anyway to that sender, I know he echoes the sentiment of many readers.

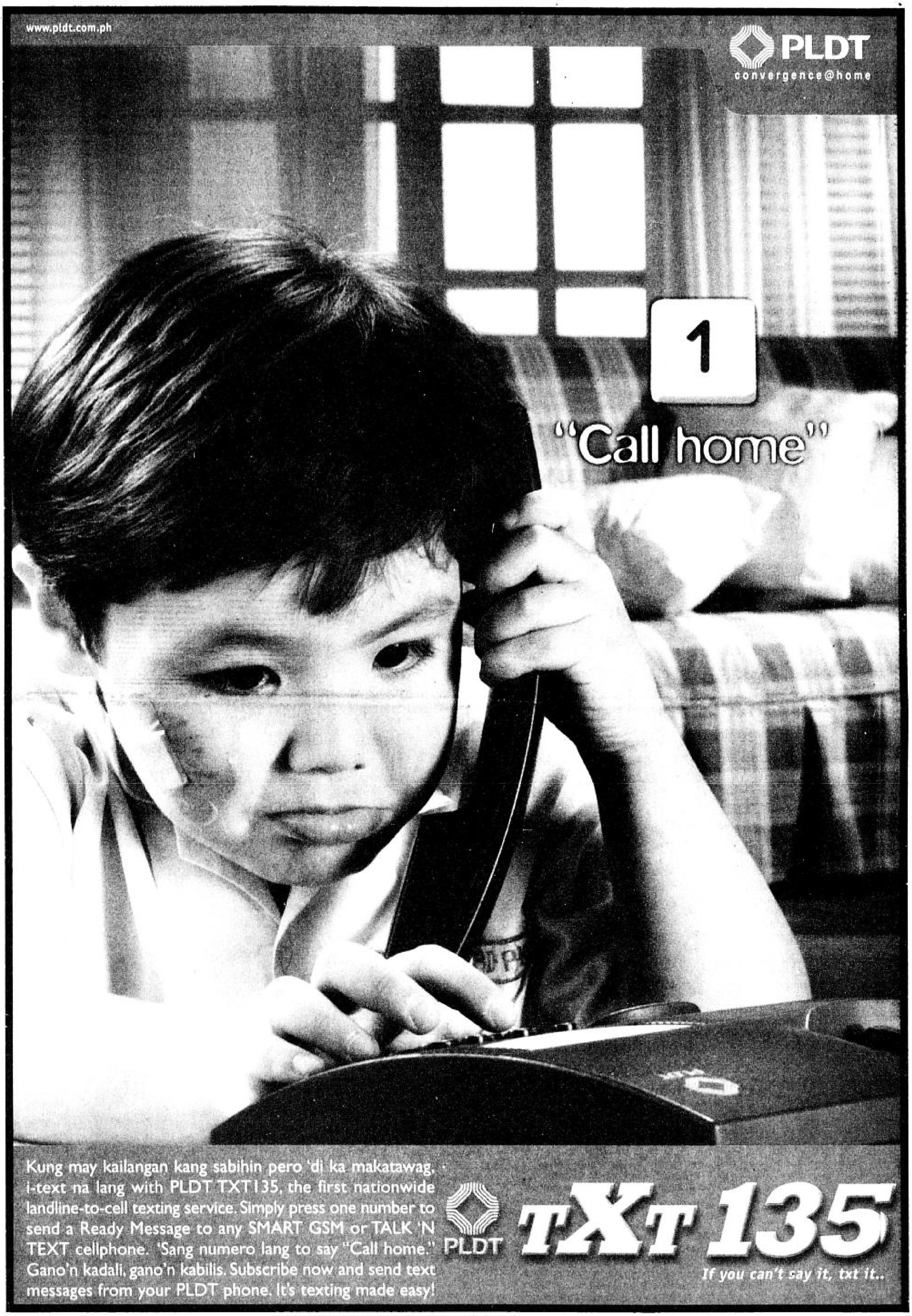
What I really felt bad about, after reading the news, was the spate of brutal kidnappings recurring. Our own pickpocketing episodes became what they really are—petty crimes compared to the despicable acts committed against the student couple in Baguio or that young woman who was snatched out of her car and whose body was found violated and brutalized in an empty lot in Parañaque. They reminded me of the Cochise-Beebom murders in the early '90s—a couple of friends who were missing for a time and whose tortured bodies were found later. After editing my staff writer's account of the active, charmed lives of these two young people and later their tragic end, I went home somewhat depressed, the so-graphic description of their bodies—especially that of the raped woman—playing nonstop on my mind. I couldn't even bear to imagine what it did to their parents.

That was followed by many other heinous crimes. Always, they shock readers, but if you're a parent yourself, the effect of such news on you must be always deeper and more frightening. You think of the nights your young son or daughter is out there on the street, driving home from school or just having a nightout with friends. Such news sends a chill up your spine.

Today, like before, crime news reminds you that peace and order must always be a major agenda of whatever political administration. Today, people have grown so cynical, even disdainful of government institutions, especially the police and the military. Coffeeshop and office talk has it that kidnappings and holdups are rampant again because sinister forces must be raising funds for political campaigns, and people casually note this trend with such feeling of resignation as if it were part of a natural cycle that must recur with clockwork precision.

It's bad enough that the peace and order situation

IN SELF DEFENSE/ p.E9



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   - Press 2 for "Call me at the office"
   - Press 3 for "Have a good day"
   - Press 4 for "I love you"
   - Press 5 for "Happy Birthday"
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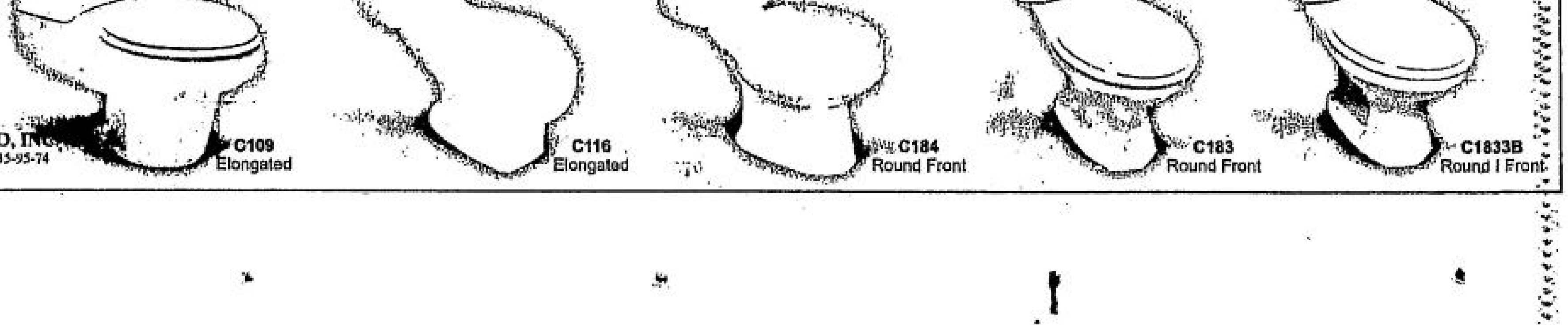


FACIAL contouring. The aesthetician massages the veins of the client to stimulate blood flow.

MASSAGING below the cheekbones and pulling them back to prevent sagging.

Comfort Zone and oxygen-contouring treatments are noninvasive approaches that utilize the power of touch to renew the skin

SHERYL Sexton holds the activator and nebulizer that contain anti-oxidants and nutrients.

PHOTOS BY JOHNNY VILLENA

The telltale touch

By Marge C. Enriquez

TO INFANTS, touch is the most comforting of the senses. Held against the mother's body, the baby feels gratified and consoled. The child is soothed as it feels the mother's hand softly caressing the cheek. In adulthood, people tend to "lose touch," and are even discomfited by skin contact. By insulating themselves from family and friends, people tend to repress an innate need to be relaxed through touch.

Studies cite that people who own pets suffer less from stress-related ailments than those who don't. This is due to touch. The peaceful rhythm of the human stroking and the pleasure of the pet's reaction concur to relax people.

It is no wonder that massages and facials are popular in these stressful times. More than just the perception it is the elixir of youth or that it provides physical benefits such as the removal of toxins, the improvement of blood circulation and the stimulation of cell renewal, the expert's touch is invigorating. For a moment, the receiver feels as if the energy has cleansed the body of insecurities about its looks.

Comfort Zone

Davines, an Italian company, is capitalizing on the efficacy of its plant-based products massage and facials as a means to promote total well-being.

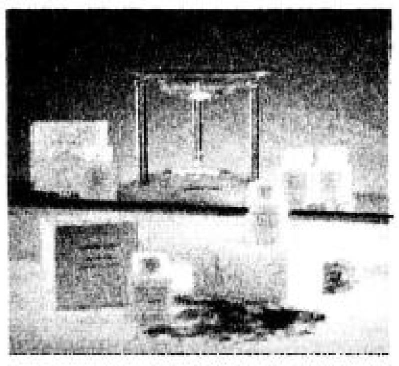
Its skin-care line Comfort Zone combines aromatherapy with healing plant extracts from the ti tree, echinacea (that helps prevent infections), ginseng, marine algae and jojoba oil. More than just a cream to smoothen the skin, the product aims to soothe the nerves.

"Comfort Zone is more than words. It's feelings and sensations," says Sonia Cavazzana, Comfort Zone's technical educator for skin care.

The system goes beyond slathering the skin with rich moisturizers and toners. It is meant to appeal to the five senses. As soon as the client walks in the Essenses Treatment Room, one gets calmed down by the dim ambience and by the smell of lavender from the aroma candle. Comfort Zone has its own music for the nerves. For the tastebuds, one can enjoy the herbal teas for energizing, cleansing or soothing. The Balance Restorer is said to be a diuretic for those who feel bloated. Then comes the exfoliation and relaxation massage.

Cavazzana visited Manila recently to train the massage therapists of Essenses at Rustan's Makati. Comfort Zone has facials for specific skin types. The Water Source hydrates skin that is losing moisture content. Bilberry decongests clogged pores and treats sensitive skin. Green Clay purifies oily skin. For mature skins, Action Sublime is an anti-aging system that has a serum that treats the skin's problems and a cream that sustains the nutrients and works as a sunblock. Action Sublime contains a yeast that boosts the body's natural defense against aging and strengthens the collagen and elastin fibers that hold up the skin. The hyaluronic acid helps the skin improve its moisture content to keep it elastic. The milk proteins help control the skin's acidity. In this treatment, the neck massage loosens up tight muscles. The ceramide mask prevents wrinkles; the hydrating mask prevents the skin from looking like a shriveled prune; and bilberry pacifies stressed-out skin,

Cavazzana is turning 42 in July but doesn't look a day over 30. She's been in the beauty business for 15 years and has tried many name brands. Some of the products led to breakouts, uneven skin tone, skin sensitivity and redness. Sometimes she had to hide the awful result under tons of makeup.



COMFORT Zone uses plant extracts.

When she tried Comfort Zone, she observed that it calmed down her skin. The moisturizers and eye cream last longer than other brands. She was able to prevent fine lines around the eyes and furrows in the forehead from deepening.

Cavazzana says the Action Sublime with SPF 12 and Eye Around Remedy are must-haves.

Instant face-lift

In Beverly Hills where plastic surgery is normal, people are turning to the natural way to delay the aging process. Sheryl Sexton, one of Los Angeles' top aestheticians, is in town to demonstrate the contouring and oxygen treatments. Not only are they noninvasive, but they're great stress-busters and perker-uppers.

The contouring facial is a 70-year-old treatment that has been patronized by the likes of Marilyn Monroe and Clark Gable. It is likened to an aerobic exercise wherein you pump up heart rate and adrenaline. In the contouring facial, the aesthetician works on the client's carotid artery in the neck to increase the blood flow in the face by 200 percent. The boost in circulation helps to strengthen the facial muscles. Done on a regular basis, this facial will keep the muscles from sagging.

The client's face is prepared by steaming to open the pores. Blackheads are extracted. The facialist will stimulate the carotid to pump up the blood circulation. Then she will massage the client's muscles below the cheekbones and work upward toward the temple. This method helps prevent jowls and droopy cheeks.

Attention is also given around the eye area where the circulation tends to be stagnant. For people with dark circles, this will lighten up the eye area.

If you're over 35 and want to keep your jawline firm, this treatment is recommended.

The oxygen treatment was developed by a doctor who used it for healing burnt patients. Oxygen repairs cells, stimulating their and strengthening the collagen fibers. This may sound like a cliché, especially to women who have invested heavily on creams and treatments that give them hope and nothing more.

This treatment contains 30 different minerals. The antioxidants kill the free radicals that break down the collagen and elastin fibers responsible for the skin's firmness. Sexton makes the comparison between the banana that decays and darkens after an hour due to the free radicals and the banana that keeps fresh when sprinkled with lemon. The oxygen treatment shields the skin from these free radicals.

This treatment is recommended after a chemical peel, laser resurfacing or micro dermabrasion. For people who have undergone laser surgery, oxygen treatment speeds up the recovery. It's been said that Jennifer Aniston and the rest of the female cast on "Friends" usually undergo the oxygen treatment before getting made up and facing the camera.

For details, call the Belo Medical Group at 817-7178, 867-1267 and 817-9283. Located at Suite 901 Medical Plaza, Amorsolo corner dela Rosa, Legaspi Village, Makati City

In the lap of luxury

By Cathy Babao Guballa

IT was one of those mornings I woke up feeling heavy, with a migraine just about ready to kick in. Dragging myself out of bed, I proceeded to head for Fort Bonifacio where a girlfriend had promised to treat me and seat me in the lap of luxury.

After a short drive from Quezon City, there if loomed, Essensa East Forbes, an ultra-luxury residential condominium in Fort Bonifacio. Impressive at first glance, one immediately gets the impression that everything here is going to be top-rate and five-star.

Alighting from the car, I proceeded to the lower ground floor, where in between the two towers was ensconced The Essensa Club where my friend sat waiting for me.

Warm staff

The moment you step into the Club, you are met by a warm and attentive staff eager to meet your every need and requirement. After signing in, we were whisked off to the changing rooms for females situated at the leftmost section of the Club.

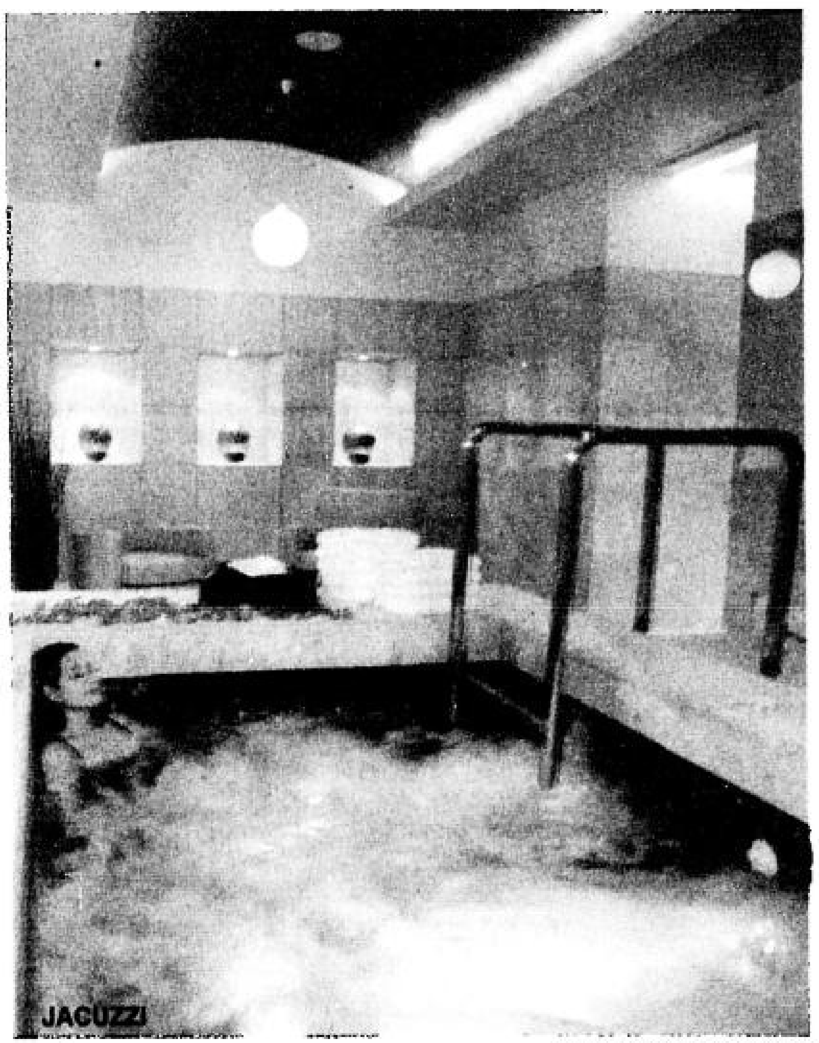
On the way there, we took a quick tour of the elegant premises where the focal point was a fantastic hundred-meter heated lap pool reminiscent of the fabulous swimming pool from the film "Meet Joe Black."

Within the club are separate areas for cardiovascular and strength training. Both sections feature the best sports equipment there is in the country—Precor, Cybex and Life Fitness, to name a few. The areas are also equipped with cardio theaters which is a state-of-the-art audio-video system that allows for individual viewing of television programs without having to distract your next-door neighbor on the treadmill or stair climber. Thus, you can be watching and listening to MTV while the person beside you is tuned in to CNN Sports without distracting one another.

Splendid spa

If the sports facilities were impressive, the spa literally took my breath away. Totally first-rate, there is a large and comfy waiting area with toiletries from Marks & Spencer in the ladies' changing area. Lockers in light mahogany line the room and further down is a jacuzzi that really does wonders for the stressed soul. The shower stalls with individual changing areas are very roomy though personally, the moss green tiles were a bit off.

There are two saunas—wet and dry—which come with electronic timers that you can ask the attendants to set. As I sat in the wet sauna with the scent of eucalyptus filling the room, I felt my migraine pass and the heavy feeling slowly lift.



JACUZZI

PHOTOS BY ERNIE SARMIENTO

Where else in Manila can you find a heated Olympic-size swimming pool and a day spa done in marble?

From there, my friend and I proceeded to the treatment rooms, located at the far end of the Club. The only setback for ladies, especially if you are the self-conscious type, is you need to walk (in your robe!) from one end of the Club, passing through the cardio training area, the indoor pool and the strength-training area before you reach the treatment area.

Once you get to the four private treatment rooms, however, you are transported to an experience of sheer bliss. With soft lighting, gentle music and the scent of peppermint or lavender (take your pick), your body goes into de-stress mode.

The treatment rooms are for individual use and quite large by industry standards, approximately 15-20 sq m. It comes complete with a small sitting area, shower and toilet. What takes the treatments to a higher level is that there are two therapists who perform body treatments on you. The various massages and facials though are performed by a single therapist.

There are a wide array of treatments to choose from at the Club. Swedish, shiatsu, aromatherapy, East and West combination (a duet of the best of Swedish and shiatsu techniques)or a 30-minute spa sampler which concentrates on tense areas like the neck, shoulders and back—a quick fix to relax and unwind.

De-tox

Then there are the specialized treatments, performed by two therapists that make one feel like a princess. The de-tox special helps purify your system and aids in releasing toxic energy. A back facial is a calming back polish that improves blood circulation in the area that is easily neglected. The aquamarine body wrap is a treatment that uses marine ingredients from the sea to hydrate your skin and improve blood circulation. A treatment called Sparadise pampers parts of your body (hands and feet) with the use of reflexology and paraffin wax, making your whole body, not only your hands and feet, feel light as a feather.

Treatments are a bit pricey but I suppose reasonable considering all lotions, oils and whatever are all imported and top-of-the-line. The only catch is you need to be either a resident/unit owner of Essensa or a guest of a tenant in order to use the facilities. That's as exclusive as it gets.

After an hour or two at the Club, you come out totally recharged, ready to face the rat race once more. Thank heaven for friends who provide little moments of luxury in the urban jungle.

For inquiries, call Essensa Club at 815-1507. Bookings for all treatments are required in advance.

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph

FIT for a Hollywood movie.

Lulu Tan-Gan and L'Oréal collaborate to create the season's look in spicy red, rust and other glares

AMBER and khaki combination

Hot knits for hot summer

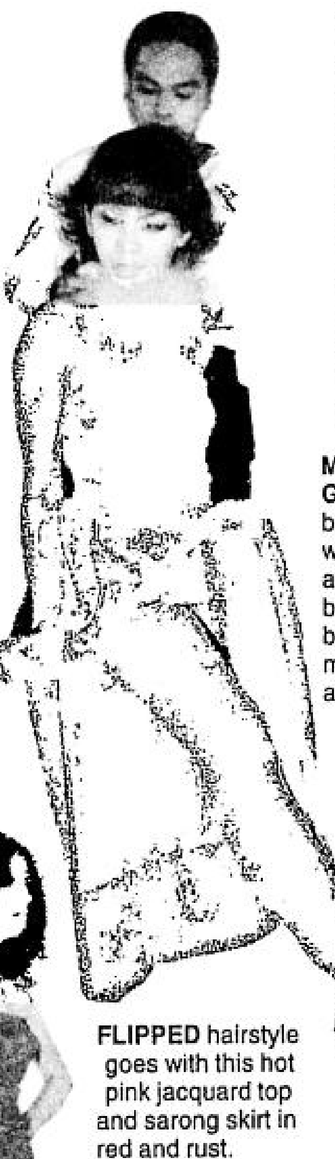
Photos by Betoy Johnson

WHEN it comes to travel clothes, Lulu Tan-Gan's knitwear is indispensable. With just a few easy pieces, your suitcase can weigh around 10 kilos. While you're abroad all you have to do is wash them, hang dry and wear.

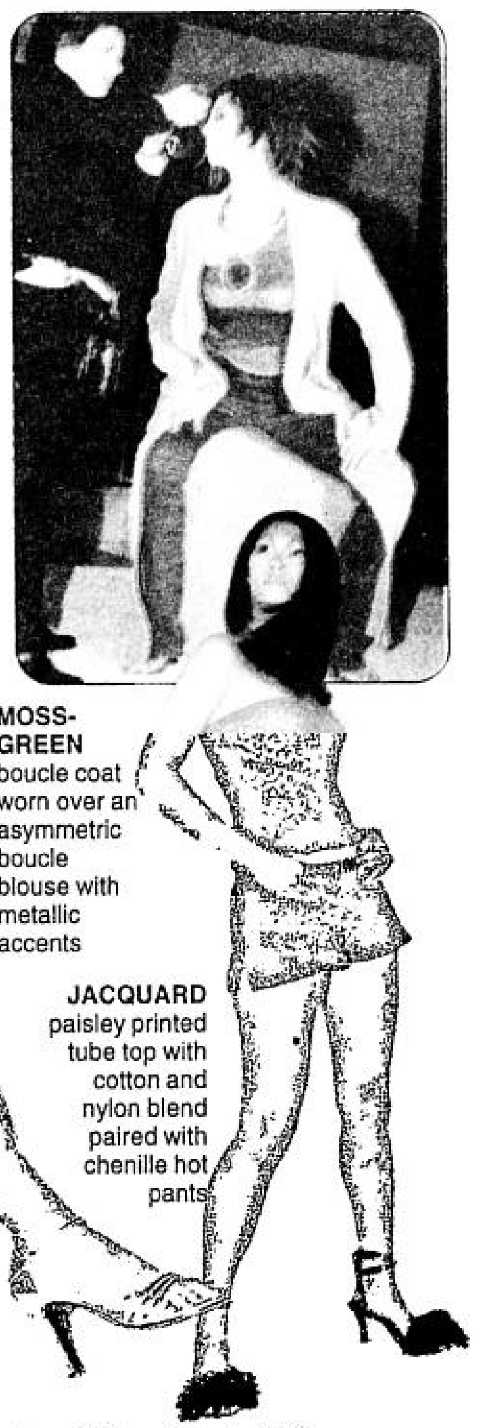
Animal prints and amber stones, fiber and feathers sprang into the spotlight at the recent launch of L'Oréal Professionnel's new range, Color Optics. Spectacular hair illusions, designed by international hairstyling star David Dowdeswell and selected members of the elite L'Oréal Style Society were on show along knitwear by Tan-Gan.

L'Oréal Professionnel has all the answers, drawing on its Paris think-tank that's got a direct line to fashion's movers and shakers in style capitals across the globe. Sexy, crazy and cool is hair 2001, to match over-the-top fashion that cries for wicked excess. Expect hair to lift off into the stratosphere as the ultimate fashion accessory, alongside that Vuitton PDA case and Blahnik crocodile slides. Another interesting forecast is the return to hair in darker, richer hues and punched up by bright bursts of imperial red.

L'Oréal Professionnel Color Optics offers four new revolutionary looks: Amber, inspired by the semiprecious stone; Liana, with the look and feel of rich pashmina wool; Feather, using an intense bird of paradise effect; and the jungle-inspired Python.



FLIPPED hairstyle goes with this hot pink jacquard top and sarong skirt in red and rust.



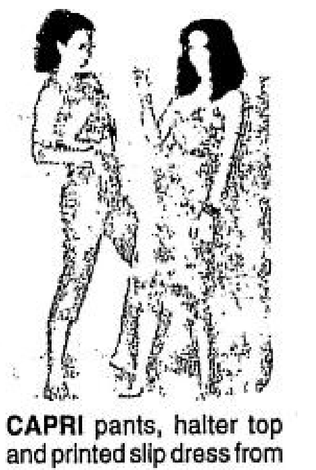
MOSS-GREEN boucle coat worn over an asymmetric boucle blouse with metallic accents

JACQUARD paisley printed tube top with cotton and nylon blend paired with chenille hot pants

MODEL with crimped hair wears a tube chenille dress with metallic accents.

What's hot this summer?

FLORAL prints from Escada sport



CAPRI pants, halter top and printed slip dress from NafNaf Paris in Cinderella

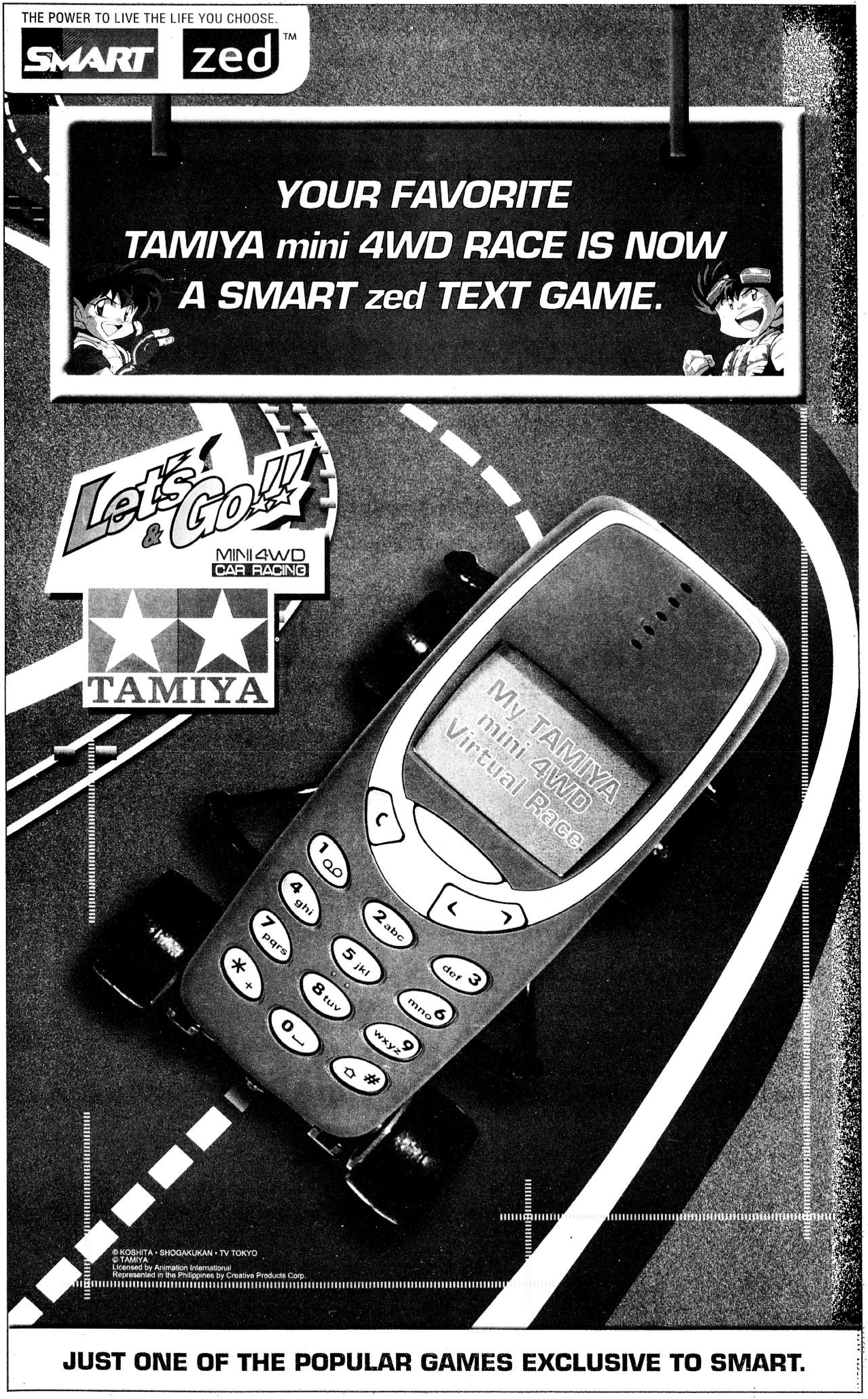
The best things in summer are free

KAMISETA offers fun products this summer. Whether you're at the beach or at a backyard picnic, the store has the perfect gear to make any outing a bash. And you can get them for free.

Get your fave Kamiseta slippers or sneakers to match your Kamiseta sundress. For every single purchase worth P499, you can get spill-free muggies in vivid colors of yellow, blue, red, black and white. A P699 worth of single purchase will let you go home with scuttletubs. They're plastic utility baskets with summery cutout shapes in orange, white, green, yellow and blue. For a single purchase worth P999, you get the Picni-Lite, a mini plastic picnic basket complete with plastic utensils.

Kamiseta's Sun n' Surf Beach Bags in blue, pink, yellow, green and white can hold your summer gear. The sturdy exterior protects them from getting wet or gritty with sand.

HIT the sand while you're shod in Kamiseta slippers such as Clear Jellies, Ribbed Jellies and Jelly Wedgie Slippers.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How labels reach out to consumers

Fashion Week in Manila is about pushing retail fashion and increasing consumer awareness on brands

By Harriet Ann Dy

FASHIONISTAS who've been used to reading about how major fashion capitals like New York, Paris, Milan and London stage their fashion weeks will probably be surprised at how Manila reinterprets a fashion season at the end of the month.

Dubbed "Fashion Week Summer 2001," the week-long event will be held from March 30 to April 8 at the Glorietta Activity Area and Glorietta 4 Park in Makati. Organized by Runway Productions and Cal Carrie's International Models Philippines' indefatigable director Joey Espino and his brother Audie, the retail-driven affair will include local brands like Jag, Penshoppe and Oxygen and imported lines like Esprit, Kookai, NafNaf, Sisley, British India, Pierre Cardin, Replay and Speedo. There will also be one night devoted to local designers; and another to beauty conglomerate Avon, which will launch four new color families.

No stranger to fashion shows—whether behind the scenes as a director or producer or as an invitation-carrying guest—Joey is unapologetic about his approach to holding fashion's event du jour at the ultimate consumer's mecca: the mall.

"Fashion Week is a season wherein top labels and designers present their new lines that can be offered to the public and consumers," he says. "And you should promote your products where your consumers will be."

There will be none of the stylized shows—think about how fledgling New York-based brand Imitation of Christ held one of their shows in a funeral parlor—that characterizes many of the big shows abroad. Or, the fashion-as-entertainment gigs that many Filipinos have come to associate with our fashion shows. While Fashion Watch is traditionally about giving a platform and venue for young designers to show their wares, Fashion Week in Manila is all about pushing retail fashion and increasing consumer awareness of available brands.

SPEEDO is one of the featured labels in the mall show.

Retailers' synergy

"My next vision is to reach out and educate Filipinos," says Joey. "It's about uplifting the preferences of the Filipino consumer."

His show-and-sell approach comes at the heels of plummeting retail sales that have dogged many fashion companies here and abroad. This no-nonsense sentiment is echoed by Chet Hazzard, president of Vera Wang, who recently revealed to The New York Times that "the mood of retailers is serious. They are coming off a tough year... [and] are really not interested in seeing collections that aren't good for the bottom line. They are not so impressed anymore with fabulous shows."

So is Joey. "I think I'm done with that," he says of elaborate productions that focus on buzz than bottom lines.

Now on its third year, it is only now that Filipino retailers are warming up to the idea of holding a fashion week to kick off a fashion season. "I think there must be a season that people should look into," says Joey. Once this is established, this can be synchronized with other aspects of business like making the clothes paraded down the runway are shipped on time and are available in the stores. "Filipino retailers are realizing that we have to be responsible to our market."

Even then, it took a while for retailers to achieve this synergy. In 1997, when Fashion Week was staged for the first time, only seven to eight brands joined the show. This year, there are 12-15 brands who have confirmed participation.

Educating mall shoppers

"We thought it is a good opportunity to educate people on fashion; and color is an important element of fashion," says Louie Migne, PR senior manager for Avon on the company's decision to support Fashion Week this year. "We think Fashion Week is a more direct way to communicate with our customers and tell them the importance of makeup." Toiletries, makeup products and fragrances account for around 60 percent of Avon's total business.

While Fashion Week abroad is about attracting as many buyers and media from around the globe, the local version is about staging a show that is most accessible to the final consumer—who happens to be the mall shopper. Primary target market, according to Joey, is someone with "high income, educated consumer belonging to the A, B and C markets aged between 20-44 years old." Cal Carrie's will be flying in international models to give the shows a global flair. This year, the Ayala Center group took the initiative on this year's Fashion Week, with the goal of increasing the sales of its tenants.

"The mall culture is very important," notes Joey. "Mall promotion in Southeast Asia in particular is very effective and retailers see this trend becoming bigger and bigger."

Glorietta 4 Activity Center, being a far cry from Bryant Park in New York, don't expect new collections from luxury brands—Armani, Chloe, Prada, Valentino, etc., to join the action. Instead, participants involves giving consumers more choices at different price points.

"It's fashion in the sense that the consumer has to be updated with the way they put their look their together, but not necessarily about luxury glamour," says Joey. "We need to give consumers the right consciousness first."

For show schedules, call Runway Productions at 844-0467.

E-mail the author at chinachix@hotmail.com

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ex: TAMIYA REG MIKA

2 Once registered, you can choose your car. First get a list of the available car models by typing TAMIYA CAR. To select a particular model, type TAMIYA CAR <car model> and send to 288.

ex: TAMIYA CAR

Sample Response: MS (Magnum Saber), SS (Sonic Saber), TX (Tridagger X), SA (Spin Axe), PS (Proto Saber JB)

ex: TAMIYA CAR MS

3 To find out the current circuit for the day type TAMIYA CIRCUIT <circuit type> and send to 288.

ex: TAMIYA Circuit Camel Back

4 You can now configure your car to suit the track conditions.Type [illegible] to view changeable items in your set up.

To modify your engine, type TAMIYA MOTOR <motor type> and send to 288.
To modify front and rear rollers, type TAMIYA ROLLER [illegible] and send to 288.
To modify tires, type TAMIYA TIRE <tire type> and send to 288.
To modify wheels, type TAMIYA WHEEL <wheel type> and send to 288.
To modify gear ratio, type TAMIYA GEAR <gear type> and send to 288.
To modify chassis, type TAMIYA CHASSIS <chassis type> and send to 288.

5 In order to review your current set up, type TAMIYA SETUP and send to 288.

Sample Response:
Car Model: Magnum Saber, Motor: Hyper-Dash, Rollers: 19 17, Tires: Reston, Wheels: One-Way, GearRatio: 3.5:1, Chasis: Super 1

6 Now you can enter your car in the race, by typing TAMIYA RACE. Race starts at weekdays 6pm and weekends 11am and 4pm .To check results, type TAMIYA RESULT and send to 288.

Sample Response:
Race result: Eliminated at race 2, rqund 1 of 2, P4

7 Review you race record, by typing TAMIYA RECORD and send to 288.

Sample Response:
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BRENT SCHOOL BAGUIO

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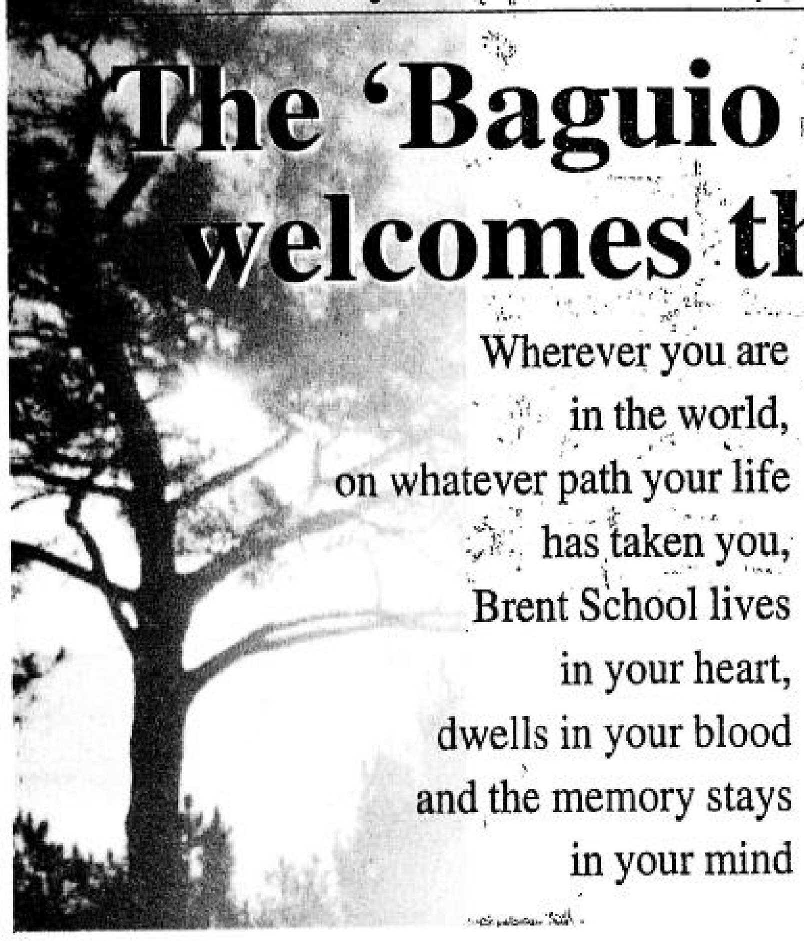
The 'Baguio School' celebrates tradition; welcomes the future



Wherever you are
in the world,
on whatever path your life
has taken you,
Brent School lives
in your heart,
dwells in your blood
and the memory stays
in your mind

BY ARIES B. ESPINOSA

IT'S 6 o'clock in the morning in Baguio City—the highest city in the Philippines at 5,000 feet above sea level. Summer has barely begun this early March. The morning sun is peeping through the majestic Cordillera mountain range. The roosters' crow resonates from one tall pine tree to the next, and each call urges us—no, implores us—to stir in our cozy beds. It is mountaintop-cold. It is, to say the least, the perfect weather to resume our dreams.

But we were in Baguio to work. And we were in Baguio for the most fleeting of moments. Courtesy of Brent School, through the kindness of Headmaster Don Holmes, we were privileged to sleep in The Quadruplex in Brent School, in one of the houses named after Lewis O. Heck who was a Brent Headmaster in the mid-'20s.

We were to have a long day ahead of us. It wouldn't be easy to completely get acquainted.with a 92-year-old international school in a day. But it was worth a try. We had to start early.

The best way to wake up in Baguio, they say, is to take a jolting cold shower. Being a lowlander from Manila, we tried it. We barely survived that.

We found out soon enough that it was only the Baguio weather that gave us the cold shoulder. Once we got out at around 7 a.m., this academic community was already up and about as well. We were complete strangers in the school, but everyone we met gave out a ready smile and a brisk "hello."

Our first interview was with Headmaster Holmes so we proceeded to his study at Ogilby Hall, a building which was erected in 1909, thus making it the oldest building on campus and also the oldest publicly used building in the city altogether.

"As the Episcopal Church celebrates its centenary, its distinguished international school in Baguio will be celebrating its 92nd year," he briefed us. "Brent School Baguio will also be unveiling the statue of its founder, Bishop Charles Henry Brent, on March 30." He then explained the importance of having this memorial to Bishop Brent, who was a significant figure not only in the Philippines, but also all over the world as he contributed greatly to Christianity and humanitarian causes. The special guest for the celebrations is an eminent Brentonian from New York, Ralph Graves, formerly of Time Magazine.

Holmes told us about the intrinsic advantages of a Brent education, providing us a bird's eye view of why, for nearly a century, Filipino and foreign families have continued to put their children and their children's children through Brent.

"We have a beautiful campus, both in the natural setting and in the layout of the buildings and the facilities. We provide quality education that is recognized worldwide. We have a rich heritage and a tradition of excel-

THE 'BAGUIO/ E8

Photos by CHARLES BUBAN

BRENT BAGUIO's historic campus is unique in the Philippines.

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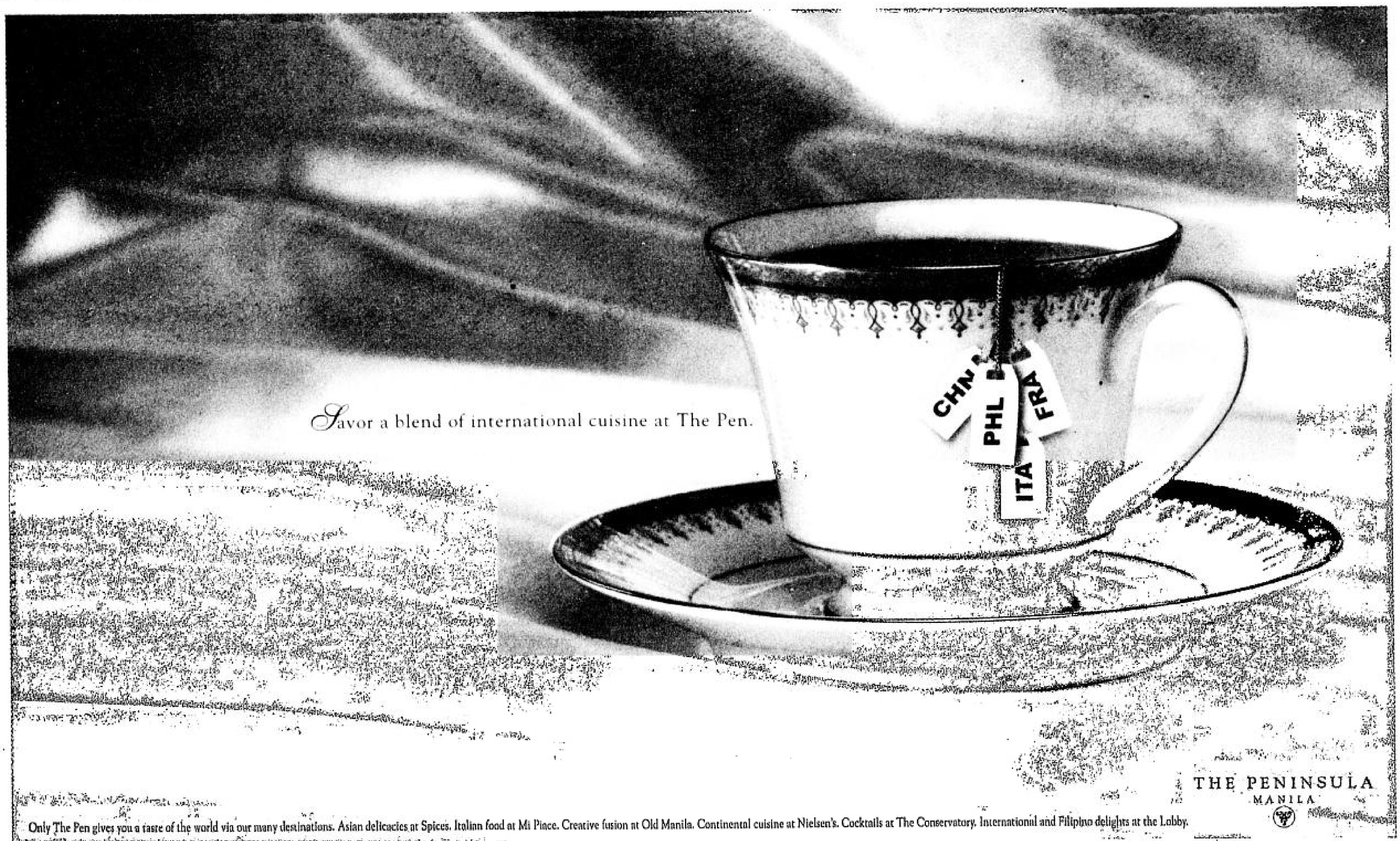

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Living the Brentonian life

BY CHARLES E. BUBAN

PHYSICALLY distinct and more calming than the more animated life of Baguio City, Brent School Baguio feels like, well, unlike any other school. The school is composed of people from diverse cultures. The student population representing close to 20 nations is primarily composed of Filipinos, Americans, Koreans and Australians and there was even a time when some 30 nations were represented.

The classes are very small, and with a population that seldom exceeds 300 everybody gets to meet everyone else. "I like the idea of smaller classes. You have more opportunity for one-on-one with the student, especially if you have those who have some learning difficulties or those falling behind in their studies. Teachers here are allowed to become flexible to make teaching as interesting as we want to," explains Susan Nalus, the Lower School Coordinator.

> The Brent environment is really good—there are lots of cooperation and communication. Here, they like to do things together and everybody has a fantastic time

A home within the school

Studying at Brent Baguio classifies you either as a day student or a boarder. At the moment, the Boys' Dormitory, Cameron Forbes Hall, has about 18 male boarders, and is headed by two interns from Korea and Australia. The Girls' Dormitory Room, Richardson Hall, currently houses almost the same number of female boarders.

There are house rules which are important for the good of all and we had a chance to chat with 10th grader and Richardson Hall resident Lou about this. She joined Brent just last year and agrees with the system. "You are living inside the school so you have to abide by the rules. It's no different when you're at home where there are rules to follow and respect."

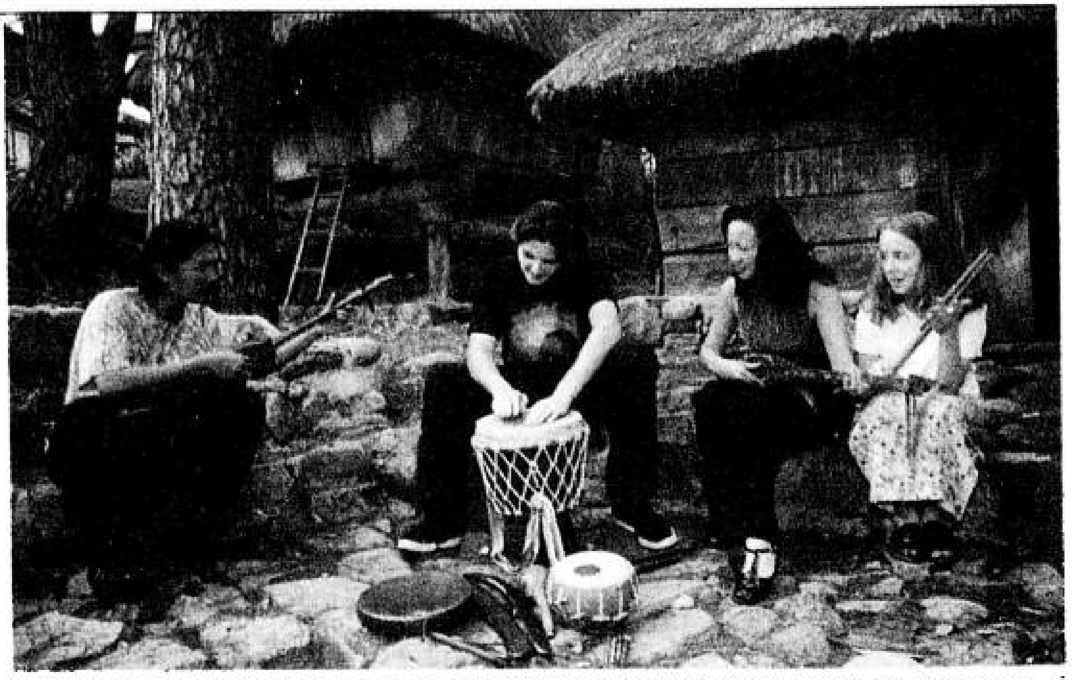
The close family ambience is what probably endears most boarders to the school. "Although I get to meet people from different cultures everyday, living with them is still different because you get to know the finer details of their lifestyle which is very interesting and might help you understand them better," explains Lou.

Carlos, a native of Honduras whose parents work and live in Davao City, shared with us aspects of social interaction between the two dormitories. Sports and excursions feature a lot but there also are "visitation" times. Leave permissions are to be requested from Dorm Heads if students would like to stay off campus for weekends or longer breaks. Carlos also spoke of the historical "Neutral"—a spacious lawn on campus where students in the more conservative times of the '30s and '40s were allowed to mingle. The spot remains popular for all students these days and a relaxed atmosphere prevails.

BRENT BAGUIO is the first boarding school in the country to receive American accreditation. Over half of the school's graduates attend the best universities in the US and Europe.

A privileged life

Brian is currently a student in Grade 11 and he transferred from another school in America just this year. "My high school in New Hampshire was really big, probably around a thousand kids. There's a big change. There, you kind of feel lost among people. Here, everyone knows everyone. The teachers there let you do whatever you want and learning is your responsibility. Here, the teachers urge us to make the best of ourselves." He belongs to the **National Honor Society**, one of the oldest and most prestigious organizations of high school students worldwide.



THERE are many venues for learning and cultural interaction at the Brent School Baguio campus.

The **NHS** serves to aid the community through special projects to stimulate academic enthusiasm, to develop leadership qualities in its members, and to provide a positive influence in society. To be a member of the NHS, one has to be in Grades 10, 11 or 12. Students who meet high academic requirements are then evaluated and selected by the Faculty Council on the basis of exhibited qualities of leadership, service, character and citizenship.

We also spoke with Nicole who has been a Brentonian since 2nd grade and like Brian, is an enthusiastic member of the **NHS.** She shared with us some of the activities of the group such as working with orphanages and medical missions. Indeed a community service program is an important commitment within the curriculum.

Honing young minds

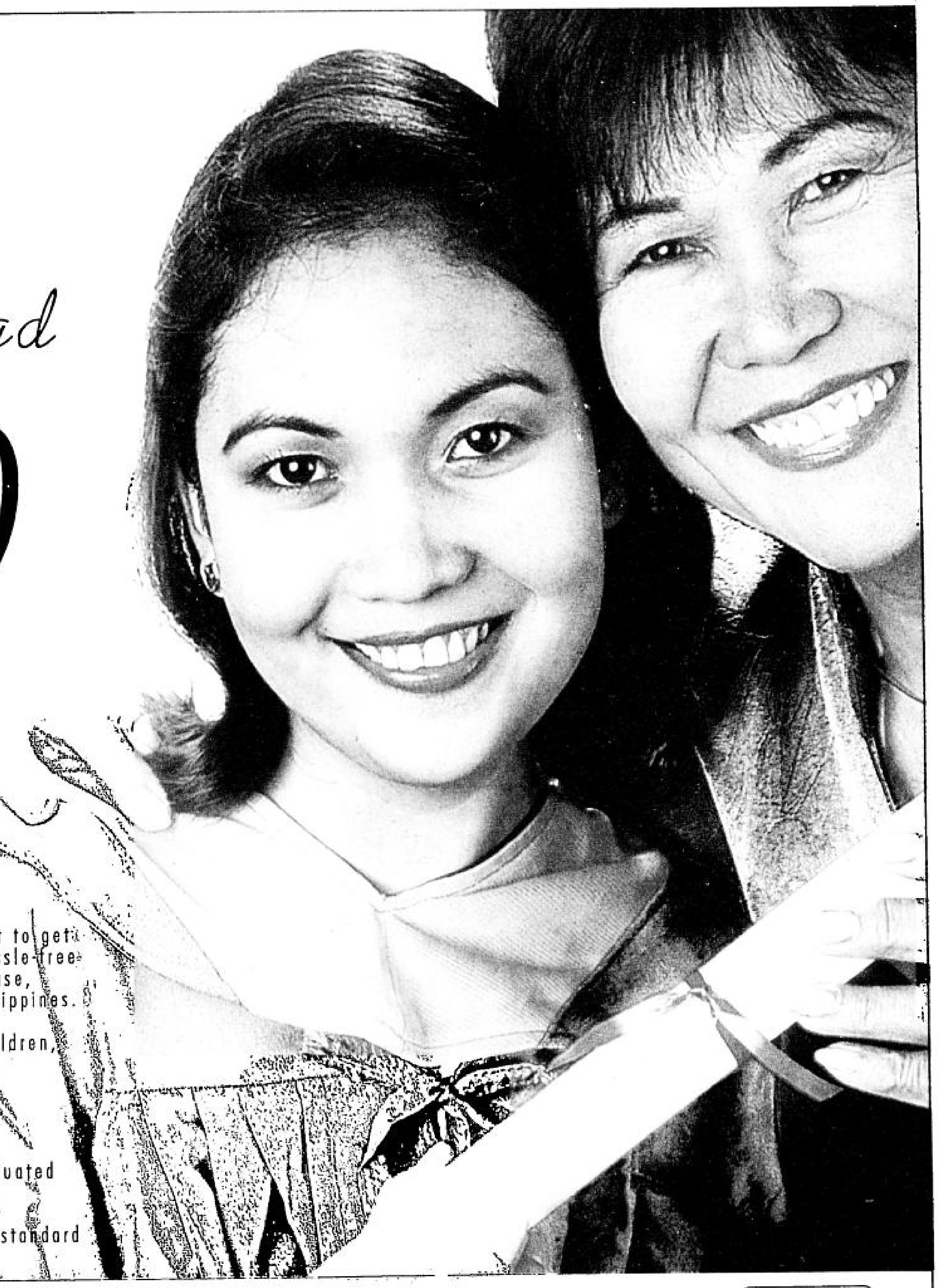
The children studying in Lower School make up a bigger part of Brent School Baguio. These are students from Nursery up to Grade 6. Classes are kept small to create a closer teacher-student relationship—a good environment for academic success. Each grade has a homeroom teacher who is responsible for the pastoral care of students and who keeps close contact with parents.

"We play lots of games like divide the house and capture the flag," says VJ, a Grade 1 student. These games play a big role in the development of Brent School Baguio's young students. "They develop leadership skills, builds teamwork apart from physical vitality," explains the Lower School Coordinator Nalus.

Fifth grader Todd adds the school also allows them to join lots of extra-curricular activities. "We choose a club we want. For each grade there are clubs to select from—the higher the grade the more choices," says this young Australian who is into sports like soccer and touch rugby.

"Clubs give students a chance at what they want to do and there's no boring moment. The learning here is very good and everybody here wants you to be their friends," reveals sixth grader Elizabeth, who will return to Illinois after this year. "I'll surely miss them all."

Indeed, Brent Baguio is a special community that fosters close ties among its students and teachers. "The Brent environment is really good—there are lots of cooperation and communication," explains Nalus. "Here, we like to do things together and everybody has a fantastic time."



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Basic Advertising

The 'Baguio School' celebrates . . .

(From page E6)

Brent Baguio boasts modern computer facilities, ESL courses, music, drama and arts programs in the Philippine and Western traditions

lence. We have small classes, which provide for quality, personalized education for each student. And our curriculum is continuously evolving to meet changing needs and adapt to the changing times. The school has a very good future because of our innovative academic programs and highly qualified staff."

To substantiate his word, the Headmaster offered us a quick tour of the campus.

Whirlwind tour

Holmes took us past the open football and track field with its amphitheater-like seats. We also saw the gym, Outdoor Education facilities, the Mini Eco Farm and dormitories. The Creative Arts' Center with its walls of glass facing the valleys provides a unique setting for Brent's Artist-in-Residence program.

Through the tour, we noticed how Brent made a conscious effort to make as little environmental impact on its immediate surroundings as possible. All the structures were made of wood. There was virtually no motor vehicle on the premises at all. The rolling pathways from one hall to another were made for walking. Pine trees nearly a hundred feet high were aplenty. A 1-km trail through the wooded valleys offered long, quiet walks.

Along with other roles, Brendan Watson oversees the overall operations of the Eco Farm, says Brent has historically been a wooded place. "We wouldn't detract from that in any way. I wouldn't like to see more areas being cleared." Part of Brendan's concern is the variety of animal and bird life that has made the grounds around Brent a sanctuary. "In my three years here I've seen an increase in the number of birds in campus—shrikes, crows and mynah, and some thrushes. We have a great number of frogs, which means our water facilities are good. And I have seen one or two monitor lizards (*bayawak* in the vernacular) in the secluded areas."

Brent School must be one of the quietest learning institutions in Baguio City. Class sizes are small and often the interaction between teacher and students is informal, yet classroom discipline is still evident. Some classrooms have computers on each table, a sign that the school, which still used 90-year-old wooden buildings, had actually embraced the Information Technology era.

SO MANY fine individuals have graced this tree-lined path leading to the school's storied halls.

That whirlwind tour gave us a bigger picture of a tightly knit social and academic community in Brent. Upper school students and teachers discussed lessons—either in the classrooms or out of it—in a discussion-like style where everyone had a chance to contribute an insight or two.

Academics

Deidre Fischer, Deputy Head-Academics, gave us a peek of the quality of education in Brent.

For Upper School, what puts Brent on the world map is its **International Baccalaureate (I.B.) program.** She describes it as an international high school diploma "but a very academically rigorous one." A concept which originated in Europe, the I.B. program is a holistic curriculum since it involves studying a second language besides English and includes Mathematics, Science, Humanities, and two elective subjects.

"By completing the IB program, you get credit in international colleges in your first year, which means IB graduates can cut off up to one year of their college program. They can join the workforce a lot quicker," Fischer explains.

"The IB makes students think. We don't spoon-feed students here. Students must be able to analyze and evaluate by themselves," Fischer stresses. The IB program is also what drives the school's entire curriculum from Nursery all the way to Grade 10. The formal IB program is open to Grade 11 and 12 students.

"You don't have to be academically brilliant to have an IB diploma," Fischer assures. "You just must be ready to work hard. And think."

English Language Support Program

Brent offers a special program, headed by Monette Bautista, which caters for students with a very basic need - communicating effectively in English. "ESL is for students whose first language is not English. So we get a lot of Asian kids who are mostly Koreans and Japanese, and we also have a few Europeans."

The ESL population is relatively small. Only 15 children need to be taught English as of the latest count. Each student, however, is a work in progress, according to Bautista. "Each student has a different pace. Some learn faster."

Bautista says the name ESL has been changed to English Language Support Program, and the system varies on each student's need and pace. "This is a semi-pullout program because our students are out of social studies, English literature, science, and languages subjects. After they go through the basic skills program, they move up to the intermediate level, where they can have more 'mainstream' academic subjects," she explains.

She adds that unlike other schools that teach a new language using rote memory, Brent's program is more experiential. "If you don't understand what you memorize and you don't actually use it, you'll forget it.

"For total beginners, we take them around campus and show them the environment from where they can then identify familiar things. In the classroom we have the TPR—total personal response—where students are made to stand up and do things, touch things as they communicate. There are many methods. You have to try different methods."

Brentonian through and through

Back at Ogilby Hall, we got a chance to talk with one of the longest-staying Brentonians who is the Deputy Head for Student affairs, Ursula Daoey. She came in as a student of Brent way back decades ago—she wouldn't say exactly when!—then

THE 'BAGUIO/ E9

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The 'Baguio School' . . .

(From page E8)

came back to teach, and has stayed with the Baguio school ever since.

"Brent wasn't called Brent then. It was called the 'Baguio School' in 1909 until Bishop Brent's death in 1929 when it was finally called 'Brent School Baguio' in his honor," recalls Daoey. "It was Cameron Forbes and his family who put up the money to buy the entire area for Bishop Brent's school."

"When World War II came, Brent School was saved because it became a hospital for the Japanese Imperial army," she reveals. "There were huge red crosses on the buildings, so they never got bombed." We also got word during our stay in Brent that the Japanese army constructed a series of interconnected tunnels beneath the school. Some of these tunnels, our sources say, can still be accessed from hidden entrances in the buildings but are of course secured from entry.

According to Daoey, the most noticeable movement after the War was the desire of more Filipinos to receive education outside of the country. It was at that time when Brent came to be a byword for getting an international-class education within the country. "The excellence of Brent just preceded the school. There was a time in the '50s when almost 70 percent of the national basketball team was made up of Brentonians," she exclaimed.

Fighting back tears, Daoey says it would be difficult to keep just one fond memory of Brent. "There are a lot of memories here I would like to keep," she says, wistfully. "I love the school. I love my job. Each year has a different story to tell. Once you are at Brent, you will always be a Brentonian—whether you stay here for just a year or for your entire academic life."

We go back to the Heck house that night; the house with no air conditioners, no electric fans, no television or radio set. But it may have well been the most comfortable house Charles and Neil and I have stayed in.

We leave for Manila the next day. The bright-red, crisp-smelling strawberries I bought the night before at the city market didn't look too good already. We wonder if we bought these too early.

Or maybe we were leaving Brent too soon.

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Evelyn's evening clothes stand out with their sleek silhouettes, delicate sprinkling of beadwork and monochromes in rich colors—plum, bronze, red and gold. Evelyn's frequent travels and attending fashion fairs—plus her exciting team of young designers—give evening dressing a new spin, a new sophistication. They are all shoulder-baring to keep you cool this summer.

The EJS collection is available at the SM Boutique Square in Makati.

RED halter in monochromatic silk dress with rhinestones on the strap

In self-defense, young women learn to kick you-know-what

(From page E1)

continues to deteriorate through the decades; what's even worse is that we seem to be getting more and more desensitized to crime news. Come to think of it, it's not only our kids' casual exposure to violent video games that should be cause for concern, but more so, the grownups' resigned attitude to real-life violence. In the early '70s, during martial law, I got a frantic call from my college best friend, a Filipino-Chinese. Her family then was preparing to leave the country because some members of their rich clan had been abducted for ransom, and they suspected as early as then that some members of the military were behind it. This was long before the kidnap-for-ransom landed in the news and became a vogue. We were incredulous and shocked then, but through the decades, this became almost a fact of life. That's how routinized crime has become.

Precautionary measures

These days, especially amid talk that there are hijackers preying on late-night woman drivers, I hear my female colleagues in the office talk of the precautionary measures they take when they drive home late. I know this must also be the case among many female drivers in Metro Manila. Some of the measures are very sensible, such as:

- Windows must be sufficiently tinted.
- One friend wears a cap, so it's not so obvious that it's a woman driving alone in the car.
- Another friend makes it a point, at the stoplight, not to halt closely beside another car and thus make her car's lone passenger directly visible or her car easily accessible to the vehicle directly opposite to hers. She stops in between cars or a safe distance away from the parallel car.
- Of course, they never get out of the car, no matter the seeming emergency created by strangers, and they don't stop the car. As my father once told me, forget the dent if you get hit, just drive on.
- They call their house to open the gate a few good minutes before they arrive.
- They glance at their rear view mirror now and then for any suspicious tail.

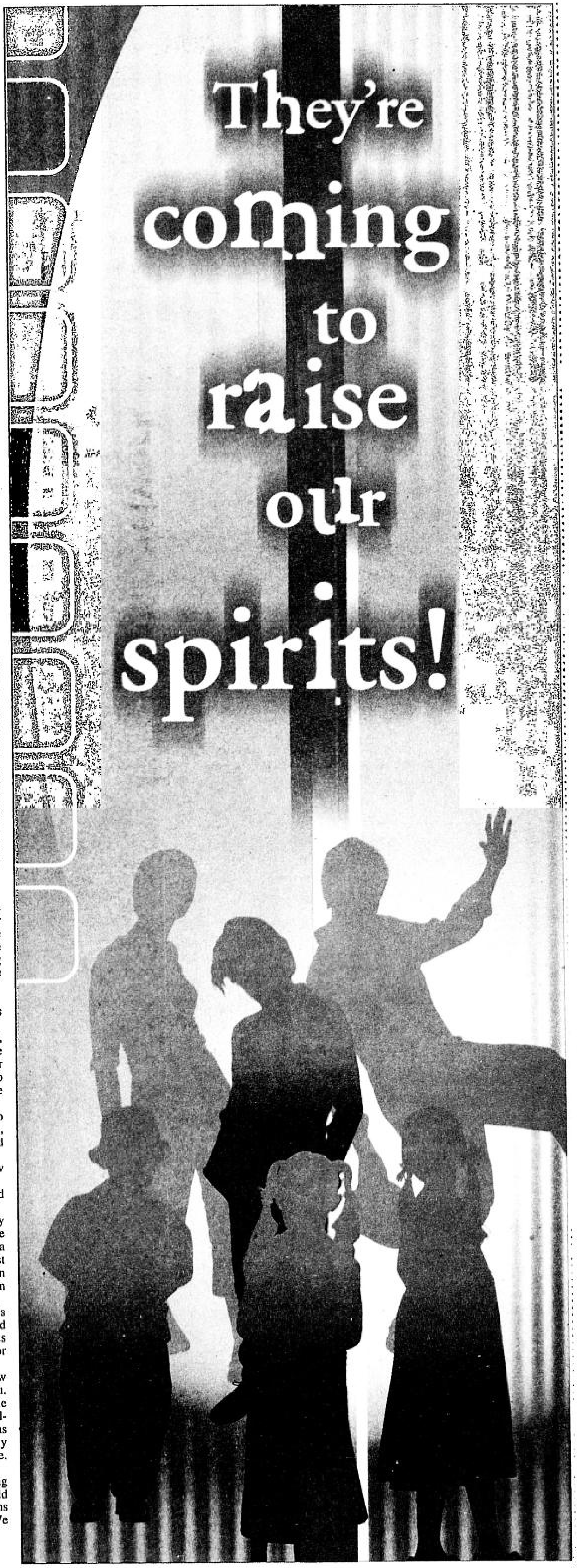
My magazine staff must really have this healthy paranoia. They even invited an expert to demonstrate self-defense moves for women. Lara Sia is a taekwondo expert who paired up with a psychologist to create a self-defense program for women based on the principles of "basic and practical solutions in self-defense."

Called The Woman's Way of Self-Defense, it's designed to make women emotionally, mentally and physically prepared for attacks. Their flyer boasts that the techniques are taught "by women and for women only."

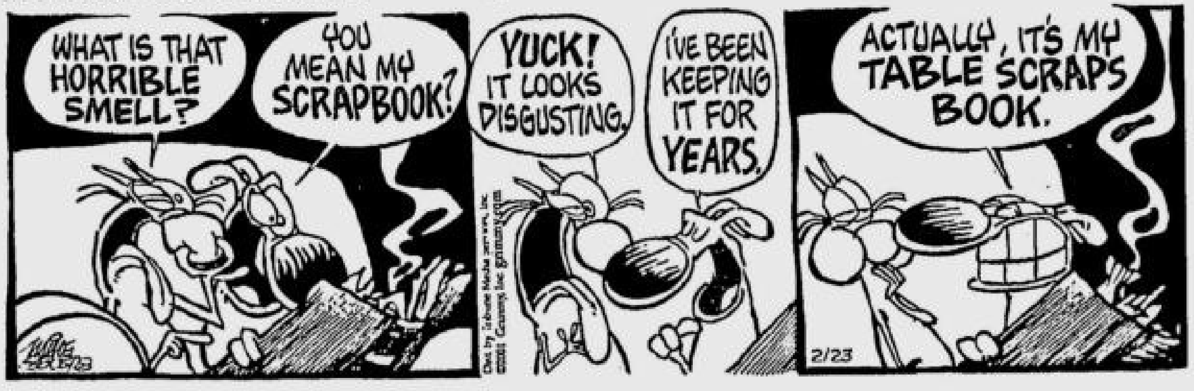
Briefly, I watched some moves and caught a few tips. One case had a man poking a gun behind you. The technique, Lara showed, consisted of a fast triple move—your one hand pushes the man's hand holding the gun, pointing the weapon away from you, as your other hand shoves his face, your fingers sharply burying on it. It's a surprise defense and offense. Simultaneous to this, your knee kicks his balls.

Very interesting. I can imagine this course catching on among women in schools and offices. It should really be balls-kicking time come elections. Politicians must know peace and order is high in the agenda. We deserve such quality of life.

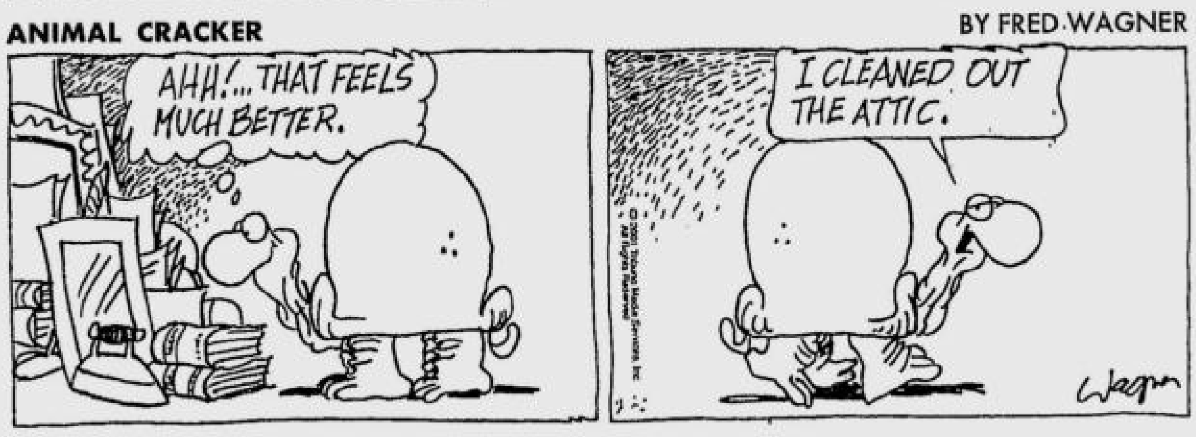
E-mail the author at tsanjuan@link.com.ph



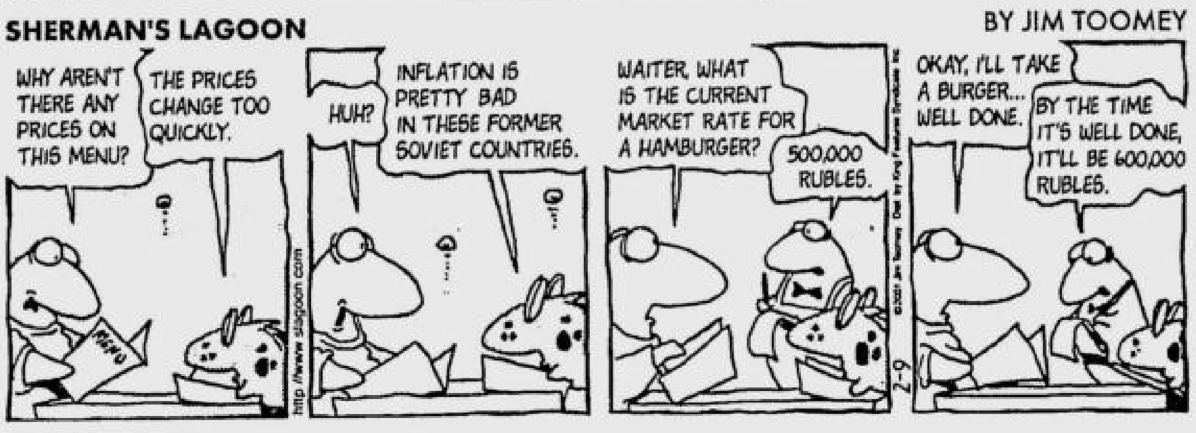
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS


WHAT IS THAT HORRIBLE SMELL?
YOU MEAN MY SCRAPBOOK?
YUCK! IT LOOKS DISGUSTING.
I'VE BEEN KEEPING IT FOR YEARS.
ACTUALLY, IT'S MY TABLE SCRAPS BOOK.
2/23

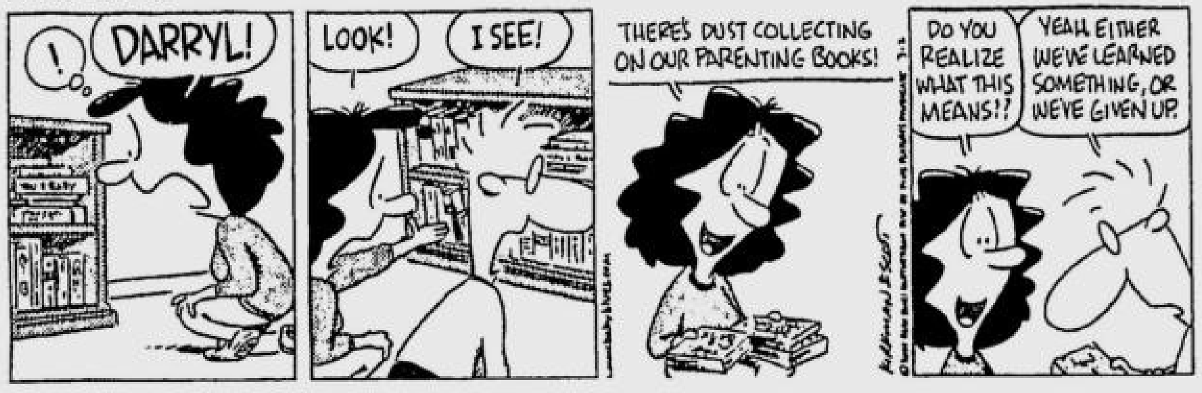
ANIMAL CRACKER BY FRED WAGNER


AHH!... THAT FEELS MUCH BETTER.
I CLEANED OUT THE ATTIC.
Wagner

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY


WHY AREN'T THERE ANY PRICES ON THIS MENU?
THE PRICES CHANGE TOO QUICKLY.
HUH?
INFLATION IS PRETTY BAD IN THESE FORMER SOVIET COUNTRIES.
WAITER, WHAT IS THE CURRENT MARKET RATE FOR A HAMBURGER?
500,000 RUBLES.
OKAY, I'LL TAKE A BURGER... WELL DONE.
BY THE TIME IT'S WELL DONE, IT'LL BE 600,000 RUBLES.
MENU
http://www.slagoon.com
2-9

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


!
DARRYL!
LOOK!
I SEE!
THERE'S DUST COLLECTING ON OUR PARENTING BOOKS!
DO YOU REALIZE WHAT THIS MEANS!?
YEAH. EITHER WE'VE LEARNED SOMETHING, OR WE'VE GIVEN UP.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Joan Crawford, Chaka Khan, Moses Malone, Amanda Plummer, Keri Russell

Happy Birthday: You need to concentrate this year. Learn to say no to those who lean on you too much. You can make headway if you are strong and adamant. You have a soft heart and often miss out because you are so busy helping others. Organize your priorities and don't let anyone lead you astray. It's time to call in some favors from those you've helped in the past. Your numbers: 5, 19, 23, 27, 33, 40

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Lady Luck is in your corner. Get involved in investments that you know will pay off. Real estate will be profitable. Involvements with institutions will turn out as planned.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): What a great day to get out, join groups or attend seminars. You will make new friends and expand your knowledge, but don't let anyone talk you into a joint financial venture.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your family will put demands on you that will be difficult to handle. Be reasonable but let them know just how much you can and can't do. Don't be gullible; ask questions if you have doubts.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Get creative. You will be happiest while working with your hands or dealing with children. If you don't already have a hobby, today is an excellent day to start one.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): It's time to revamp your financial plans. You will have to do some fancy footwork if you want to continue to live the lifestyle you've become accustomed to living.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Keep children busy with creative endenvors. Your night should be geared toward the one you love. Let your feelings be known.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Use your creativity to help you do your job uniquely. Don't let colleagues drag you into the office politics. Stay on the fringes and do the best job possible. Your professionalism won't go unnoticed.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Pleasurable activities should be on your dance card. A trip or a gathering of close friends will start the weekend off right. You need to learn how to enjoy yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Past partners may get in touch with you just to see how you are and what you're up to. Don't be fooled by their warmth and generosity. Reservations will be warranted.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Aggressive communication will get you what you want. Your partner will back down and listen to your concerns. Clear the air and you'll feel much better about yourself.

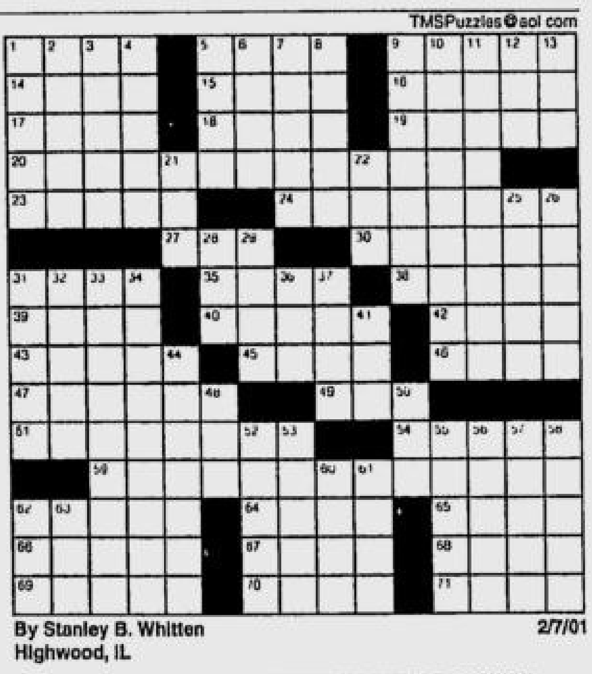
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't be too quick to follow the crowd. It's better to sit back and observe. Losses are likely if you get involved in business ventures.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your emotional sensitivity may get you into trouble. Don't put the blame on others. It's time to do a little soul-searching. Don't let relatives or friends become involved in your private affairs.

Birthday Baby: You are sweet, sensitive and creative as long as things are going your way. You have a twinkle in your eye and a personality that will win you the admiration of both family and friends. You have great ideas and a powerful sense of who you are and what you want.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Stanley B. Whitten
Highwood, IL

2/7/01

ACROSS
1 Train units
5 __ St. Vincent Millay
9 Brown ermine
14 Actor Baldwin
15 Ray
16 Sedan alternative
17 Capital of Peru
18 "M*A*S*H" star
19 Like Cheerios
20 Annie's exclamation?
23 Meara and Bancroft
24 Record book
27 Unruly crowd
30 Main dish
31 Drags behind
35 Small pie
38 Makes an error
39 Island off Galway
40 Flower
42 Dust Bowl migrant
43 Root used for pipes
45 Short note
46 Permits
47 Connect
49 Shout to surprise
51 Baja California seaport
54 Tries to outrun
59 Elton John hit of 1973
62 Validation
64 City on the Brazos River
65 Earthenware jar
66 From within
67 Conceits
68 Ring around a fortress
69 Tries out
70 Fasting period
71 Pot entrance fee

DOWN
1 Type of lily
2 UFO passenger
3 Post fresh troops
4 Sea's end?
5 Israeli diplomat Abba
6 Wooded valley
7 Lowest point
8 Flabbergast
9 Making points
10 Poisonous fungus
11 Piston moving toward a crankshaft
12 Simian
13 Sawbuck
21 Belief
22 Mature
25 Equip anew
26 Affirmatives
28 Gambling center's letters
29 Ointment
31 Hold for later action
32 Senator Hatch of Utah
33 Installs wooden slats
34 Wild ginger, e.g.
36 Caviar source
37 Burial place
41 Bovine greeting
44 Tiebreakers
48 Hawaii's ocean: abbr.
50 Cal. neighbor
52 Wooden peg
53 Old saying
55 Lure of the kitchen
56 Intestine segment
57 Great brilliance
58 Ray
60 Religious image
61 Missing
62 Kitty
63 Have regrets

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

M	A	L	E	■	D	I	C	E	D	■	E	R	G	S
I	G	O	R	■	I	N	A	N	E	■	T	E	L	L
M	O	O	R	■	S	C	R	U	M	■	O	L	I	O
O	U	T	O	F	T	H	E	R	U	N	N	I	N	G
S	T	E	L	L	A	■	■	E	R	E	■	E	T	A
A	I	D	■	I	S	L	E	■	S	E	N	D	I	N
■	■	■	I	N	T	E	N	D	■	■	E	O	N	S
■	B	U	N	G	E	E	J	U	M	P	I	N	G	■
M	U	N	G	■	■	S	O	C	I	A	L	■	■	■
I	T	S	E	L	F	■	Y	E	G	G	■	A	G	E
S	T	E	■	V	A	S	■	■	R	A	I	L	E	D
N	O	T	W	I	T	H	S	T	A	N	D	I	N	G
A	N	T	I	■	C	A	P	R	I	■	A	S	T	I
M	U	L	L	■	A	L	I	E	N	■	H	O	L	E
E	P	E	E	■	T	E	N	S	E	■	O	N	E	R

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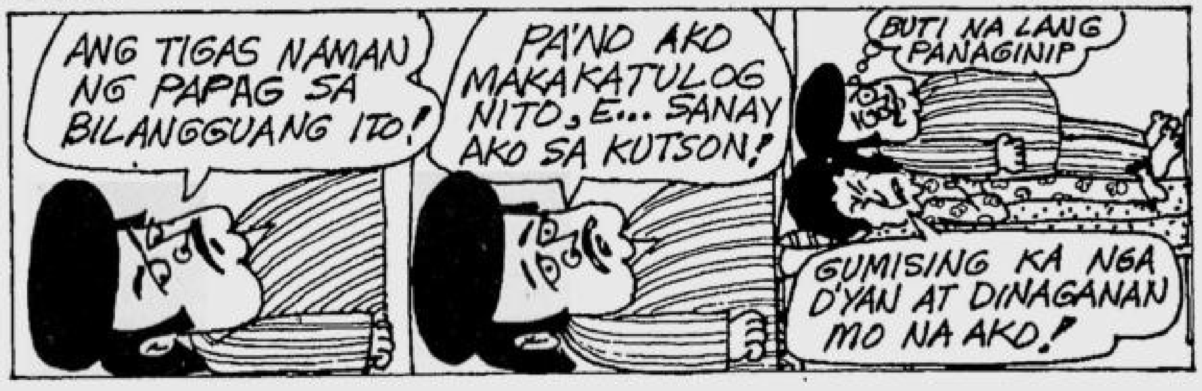
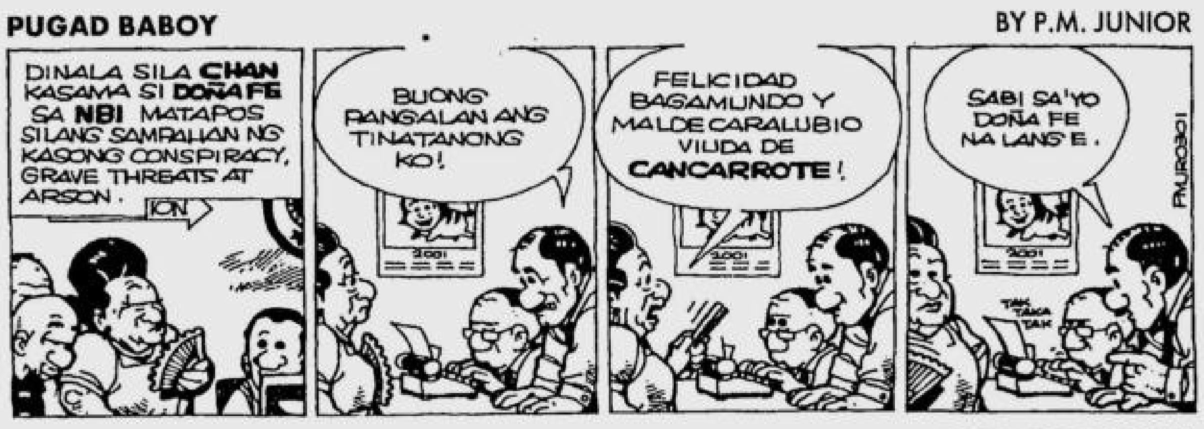
2/7/01

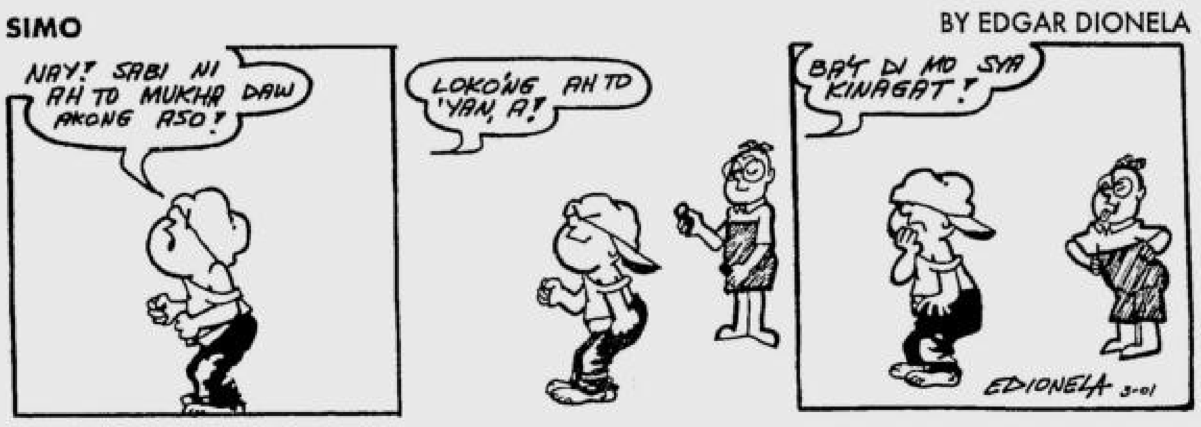
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


ANG TIGAS NAMAN NG PAPAG SA BILANGGUANG ITO!
PA'NO AKO MAKAKATULOG NITO, E... SANAY AKO SA KUTSON!
BUTI NA LANG PANAGINIP
GUMISING KA NGA D'YAN AT DINAGANAN MO NA AKO!

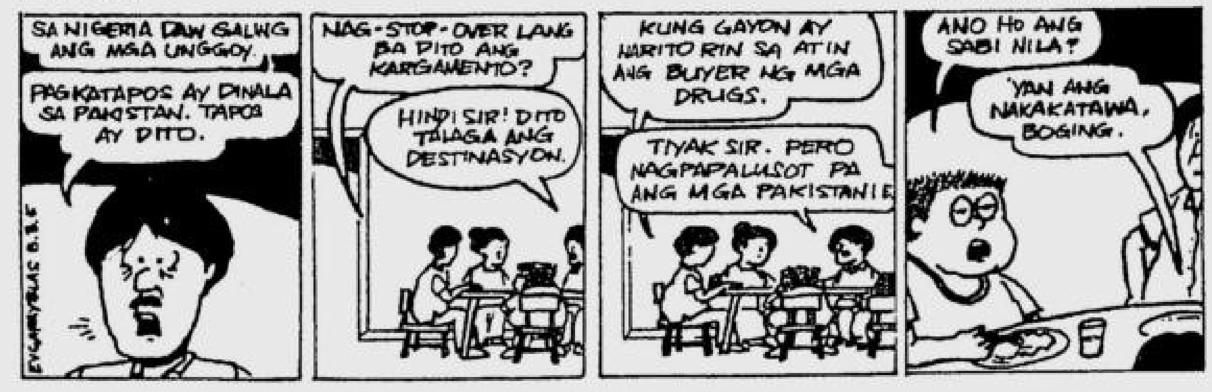
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


DINALA SILA CHAN KASAMA SI DOÑA FE SA NBI MATAPOS SILANG SAMPAHAN NG KASONG CONSPIRACY, GRAVE THREATS AT ARSON.
ION
BUONG PANGALAN ANG TINATANONG KO!
FELICIDAD BAGAMUNDO Y MALDECARALUBIO VIUDA DE CANCARROTE!
SABI SA'YO DOÑA FE NA LANG E.
2001
PMJR0301

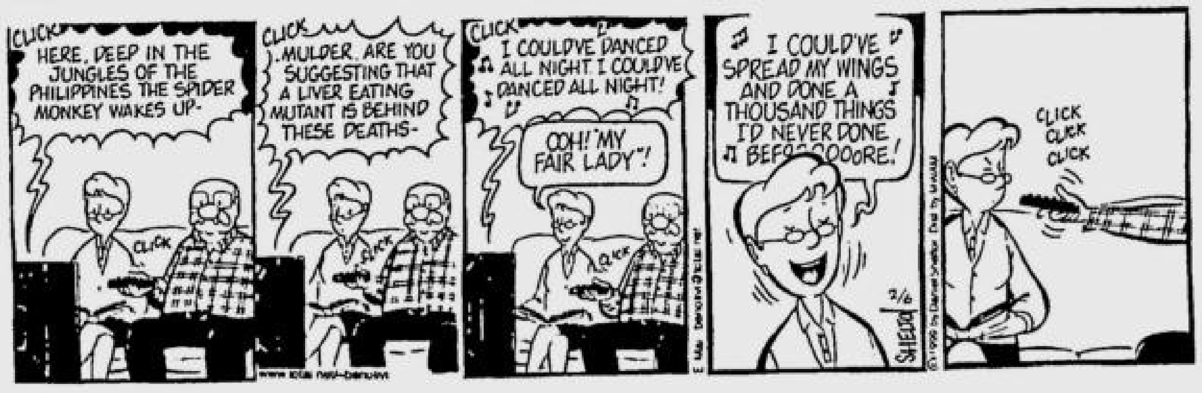
SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA


NAY! SABI NI AH TO MUKHA DAW AKONG ASO!
LOKO'NG AH TO 'YAN, A!
BA'T DI MO SYA KINAGAT!
EDIONELA 3-01

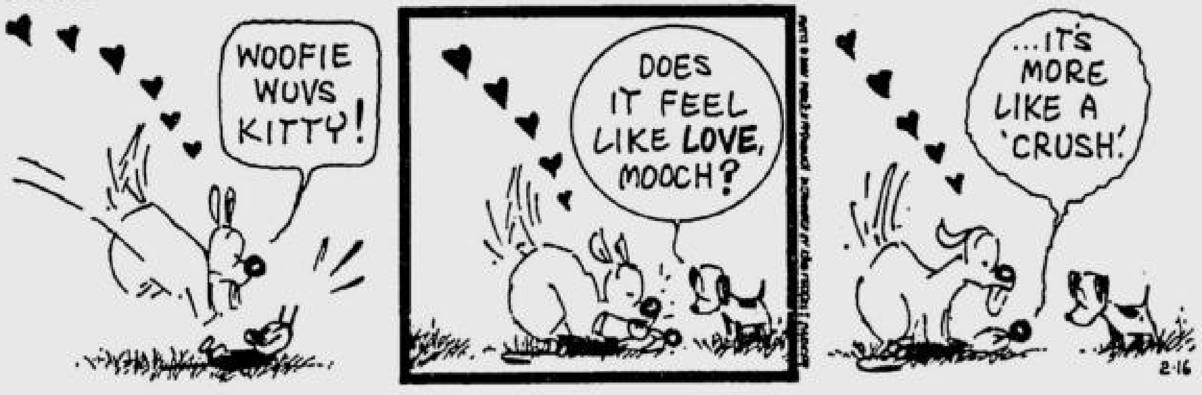
B1 GANG BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


SA NIGERIA DAW GALING ANG MGA UNGGOY.
PAGKATAPOS AY DINALA SA PAKISTAN. TAPOS AY DITO.
NAG-STOP-OVER LANG BA DITO ANG KARGAMENTO?
HINDI SIR! DITO TALAGA ANG DESTINASYON.
KUNG GAYON AY NARITO RIN SA ATIN ANG BUYER NG MGA DRUGS.
TIYAK SIR. PERO NAGPAPALUSOT PA ANG MGA PAKISTANI E.
ANO HO ANG SABI NILA?
'YAN ANG NAKAKATAWA, BOGING.

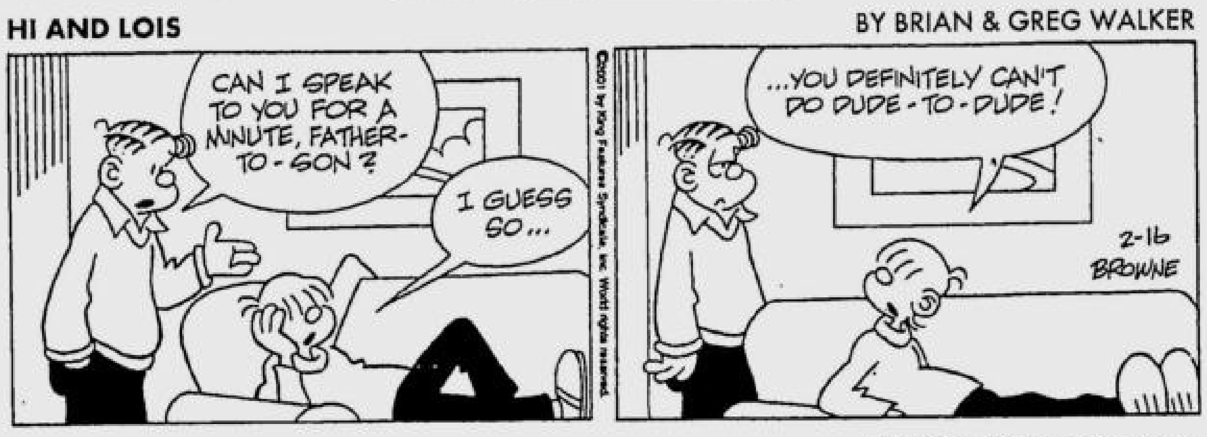
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


CLICK
HERE, DEEP IN THE JUNGLES OF THE PHILIPPINES THE SPIDER MONKEY WAKES UP-
CLICK
CLICK
..MULDER, ARE YOU SUGGESTING THAT A LIVER EATING MUTANT IS BEHIND THESE DEATHS-
CLICK
CLICK
I COULD'VE DANCED ALL NIGHT. I COULD'VE DANCED ALL NIGHT!
OOH! "MY FAIR LADY"!
CLICK
I COULD'VE SPREAD MY WINGS AND DONE A THOUSAND THINGS I'D NEVER DONE BEFOOOOORE!
CLICK CLICK CLICK
2/6
SHELTON

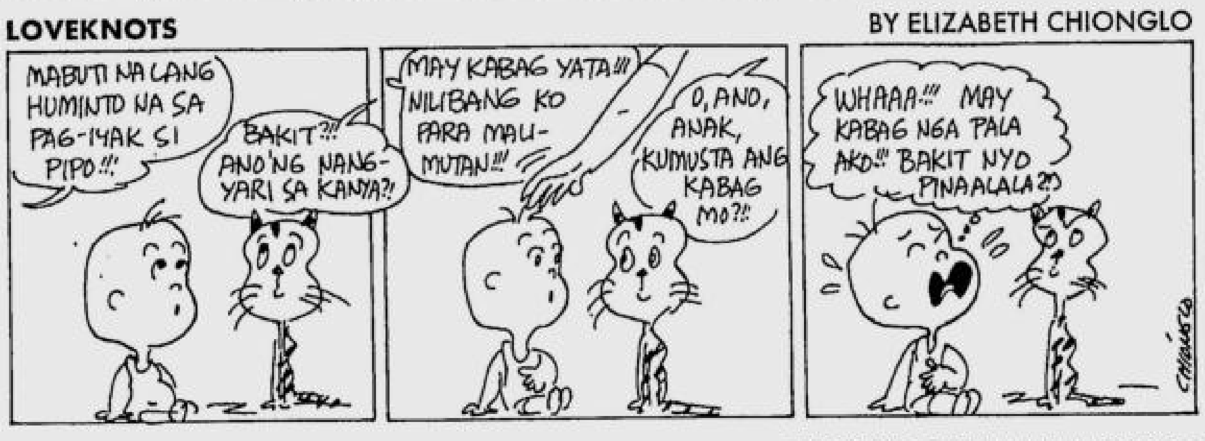
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WOOFIE WUVS KITTY!
DOES IT FEEL LIKE LOVE, MOOCH?
...IT'S MORE LIKE A 'CRUSH.'
2-16

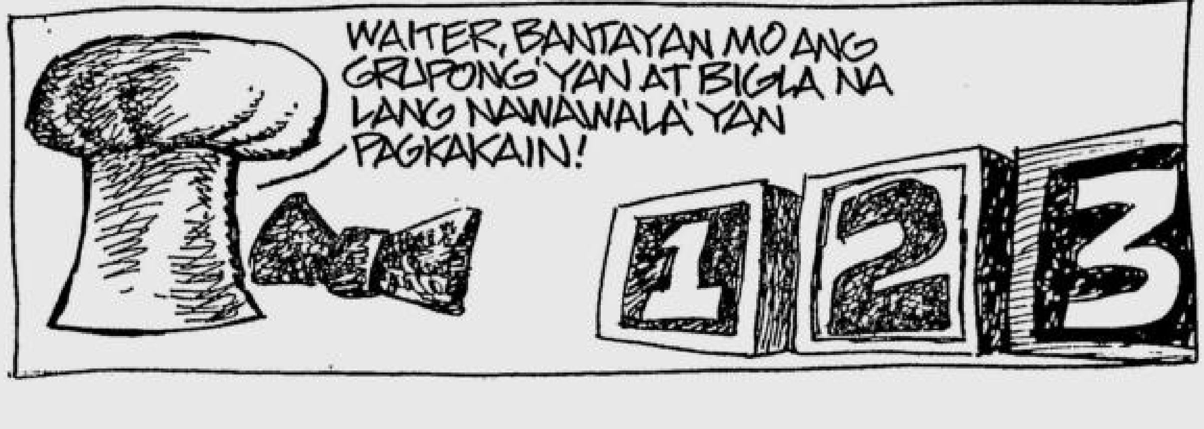
HI AND LOIS BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


CAN I SPEAK TO YOU FOR A MINUTE, FATHER-TO-SON?
I GUESS SO...
...YOU DEFINITELY CAN'T DO DUDE-TO-DUDE!
2-16
BROWNE

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MABUTI NA LANG HUMINTO NA SA PAG-IYAK SI PIPO!!!
BAKIT?!! ANO'NG NANGYARI SA KANYA?!
MAY KABAG YATA!!! NILIBANG KO PARA MAKALIMUTAN!!!
O, ANO, ANAK, KUMUSTA ANG KABAG MO?!!
WHAAA!!! MAY KABAG NGA PALA AKO!!! BAKIT NYO PINAALALA?!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK NI TITO BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


WAITER, BANTAYAN MO ANG GRUPONG 'YAN AT BIGLA NA LANG NAWAWALA 'YAN PAGKAKAIN!
1
2
3

New fashion haven at Starmall

VISIT the Fashion Station, the newest fashion haven at 3/L Starmall, Edsa corner Shaw Boulevard.

Fashion Station is Starmall's vision of bringing to its clients a more comfortable way to shop for goods that are synonymous to those found at Virra Mall and Shoppesville in Greenhills or Goldcrest Fashion Square in Glorietta.

These stores at the Fashion Station offers up-to-date trends seen in Hong Kong, New York, Paris and Italy. To kick off its promotional activities, everybody is invited to watch the grand fashion show on March 30, 7 p.m., at the main lobby of Fashion Station.

Fashion Station has over 140 shops covering a total area of 4,885-sq m, with centralized air-conditioning, wide hallways and appropriate store window displays. Shoppers are given a visual treat by each store with its own product specialty like RTW, shoes, bags, fashion accessories, novelty items, perfumes, toiletries and jewelry.

Fashion Station is accessible from the MRT through the Bridgeway at 3/L Starmall. Free basement and ground level parking is also available. Fashion Station is open from 10 a.m.-9 p.m. every day.

Participating stores are:

Men and women's RTW: 1310 Boutique, Asian Finds, Advance Attitude, Boots Berry, Crizz-Khrizz, Dernier CRI Boutique, Ding Dong, Franjla, Georgette, GJ Bravo, Goldrich Boutique, Jemardo, Jireh, Kikay Kloset, Lerlana, Maj RTW, Matrell, Myrgela, Priska Boutique, Profile, Rated E, RNL Boutique, Rose Boutique, Schey, Sidney, Stripes, Style Council, Sukat Ko, Tanram, Vakko and Yanna Boutique.

Bags: Gienzo; novelty shops: Squirty, Gift Items, ACCS Shop; kid's shop: Ariannes Collection, Bulilit Fashion, Kerubin, Kid's Avenue, Louiesie Joy Collection; shoes: S&K; hair accessories: Pang-Ipit; perfume: Scented Blends; jewelry shops and services: Mr. Minute, Mr. Cleaner's Plus, Ultima Beauty Salon; computer/telecom stations: Wired Planet; food and beverages: Fun Meal, Ped-Gee's Snacks, Le Fontainbleau, Candy Corner, Cafee Appasionato, Ming En Chai, Tin Hao Dimsum.

GOINGS-ON

FESTIVAL. "The Colors and Flavors of Summer," a festival fusing arts, crafts, flowers, plants and food organized by the Patnubay sa Kaunlaran ng Tagaytay Foundation Inc., is set tomorrow, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., at Al Fresco, Gourmet's Café, Km. 52, Silang, Cavite. The whole-day festival is for the benefit of the Ospital ng Tagaytay, a primary level medical institution owned by the city government. Call (046) 413-1291/2687/2643.

ATTENTION. The Institute for Pastoral Development holds a seminar dubbed "Matters of the Heart" on April 1, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., at the Walter Hogan Conference Center, Institute of Social Order, Ateneo de Manila University. The seminar will talk about love, sex and marriage in the Christian perspective. Call 411-3146 or 415-8713.

HOMECOMING. The Asian Institute of Management holds a homecoming on March 30 at the Rockwell Tennis Courts, Makati City. Kicking off homecoming activities is the 4th AIM Golf Challenge Cup 2001 set today at the Sta. Elena Golf Course & Country Club. Call 751-7151 to 53 or 750-1010 local 2103/06 or 816-2809.

SEMINAR. Minex Crystals, the country's competent and proficient supplier of natural crystals and gemstones, holds a seminar, "The Feng Shui Application of Crystals for Love, Success and Harmony," on March 25 at the Crystal Stars, 5/L SM Megamall, Building B, Mandaluyong City. Call 632-7049, 523-1739 or 525-5795.

RETREAT. The Community of Fasters for Peace and Justice with Akkapka Diwa ng Edsa (Aksyon Para sa Kapayapaan at Katarungan) holds its annual Holy Week Fasting Retreat on April 11-14 at Eliazo Hall, Ateneo Campus, Loyola Heights, QC. Call Beng at 896-6713, Lilli Ann/Cecille at 925-3169 or Angee at 374-2170.

SEMINAR. HR Placement and Training Services Inc., a CSC-accredited training institution, invites trainers, training supervisors, officers and assistants and team leaders to attend its two-day training course set today and tomorrow at the AIM Conference Center. The program is designed to equip participants with skills and techniques in designing, facilitating, implementing and evaluating a training program. Call 844-2827/4240.

CONFERENCE. The Philippine Librarians Association Inc. holds a conference, "PLAI 2001 and Beyond: Strengthening Partnerships and Linkages," on April 18-20 at Venus Park Hotel, Baguio City. Call Rebecca at 527-9071/73 local 44, Marlo at 735-6011, Elnora at 526-8295, Monalisa at 716-0106 and Shirley at 524-9740.

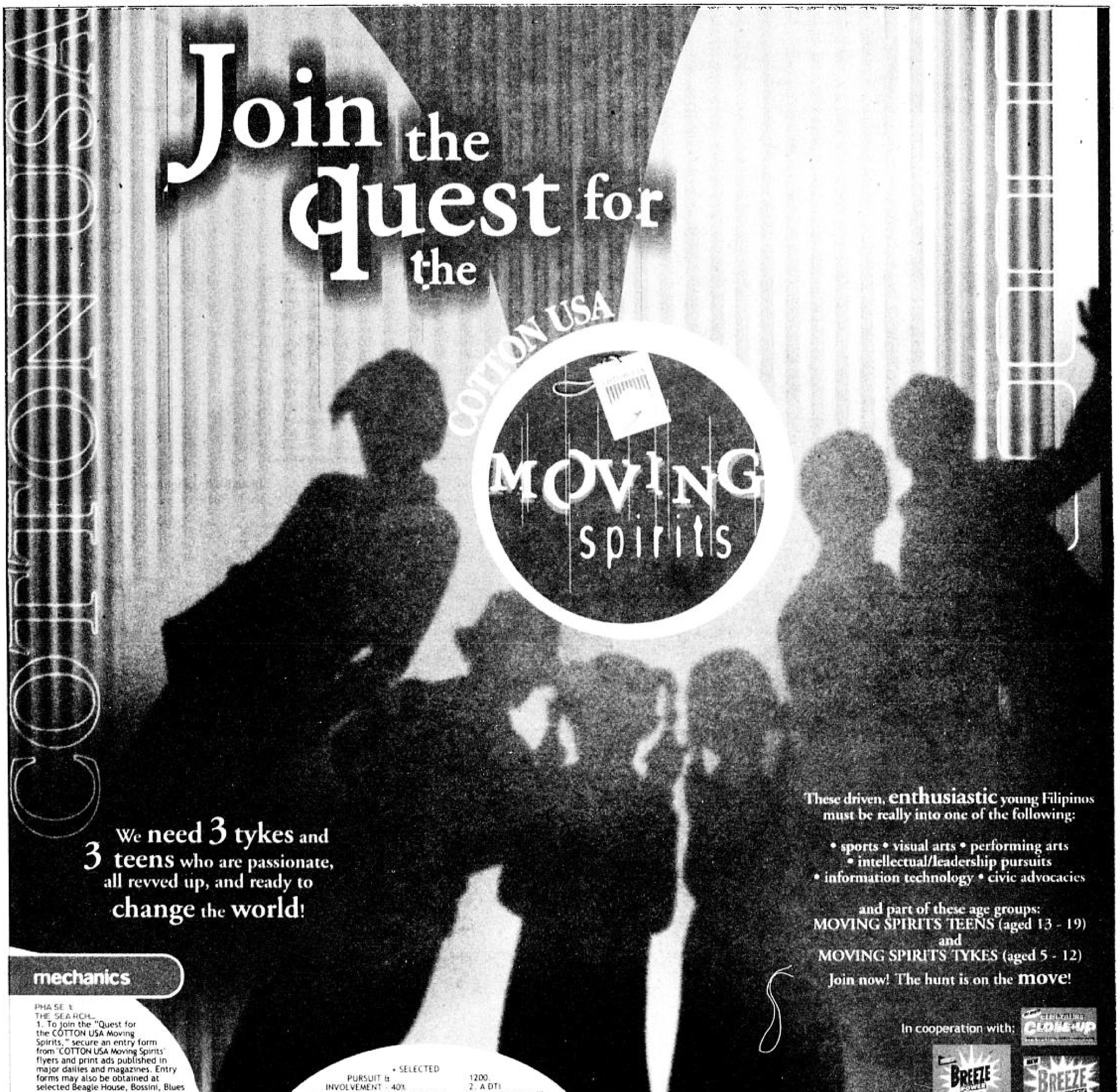
CELEBRATION. The Quezon City Public Library with the Friends of the Library celebrates Public Library Day with the theme "Books and Libraries for Community Progress" on March 30, 1-5 p.m., at QCPL Conference Room.

MEETING. Calling all members of Class 1976 of the University of the Philippines. A special meeting is set tomorrow, 3 p.m., at the UP Ang Bahay ng Alumni, Diliman, QC. Call Rho at 371-6738 to 39, Marits at 931-5344 and Dheng at 929-8327.

WORKSHOP. Kids at Art Summer Workshop celebrates its 9th year in seven venues in Metro Manila this summer. Basic drawing, painting and sculpture and crafts classes for children 5-12 years old will be offered. The workshop starts on April 16. A Basic Art Workshop for Teens and Adults will also be conducted at the Rolling Hills Venue. Call 414-1954.

GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY

The San Juan de Dios Hospital recently celebrated its 423rd founding anniversary with the ground-breaking of the five-story Out-Patient Department Building. The OPD building will house the hospital's conference/function rooms and clinical departments: medicine, obstetrics-gynecology, pediatrics and surgery. His Eminence Jaime Cardinal L. Sin (second from right), Archbishop of Manila and chair of the Board of Trustees (SJDEFI), assisted by Bishop Crisostomo Yalung (right), Auxiliary Bishop of Manila and vice chair of the Board of Trustees (SJDEFI), led the ceremony.


COTTON USA
Join the Quest for the
COTTON USA
MOVING spirits
We need 3 tykes and 3 teens who are passionate, all revved up, and ready to change the world!
These driven, enthusiastic young Filipinos must be really into one of the following:
• sports • visual arts • performing arts • intellectual/leadership pursuits • information technology • civic advocacies
and part of these age groups: MOVING SPIRITS TEENS (aged 13 - 19) and MOVING SPIRITS TYKES (aged 5 - 12)
Join now! The hunt is on the move!
In cooperation with:
CLOSE-UP
BREEZE POWER
BREEZE POWERMATIC

mechanics

PHASE 1:
THE SEARCH...

1. To join the "Quest for the COTTON USA Moving Spirits," secure an entry form from "COTTON USA Moving Spirits" flyers and print ads published in major dailies and magazines. Entry forms may also be obtained at selected Beagle House, Bossini, Blues Bros., Cartoon Studio, Habitat, and Jag outlets. (Photocopied forms may also be used.)
2. Candidates must be single, Filipino citizens, male or female, aged 5 - 19, and of good moral character. They must be residents of, or have a permanent address in, GMA and Luzon.
3. Candidates must be involved in any of the following pursuits:
• SPORTS - i.e. skateboarding, bungee jumping, gymnastics, in-line or ice skating, martial arts, mountain or rock climbing, etc.
• VISUAL ART - i.e. graphic art, painting, sculpture, animation, fashion or interior design, body art, etc.
• PERFORMANCE ART - i.e. dance, music, drama, mime
• INTELLECTUAL/LEADERSHIP PURSUITS - i.e. entrepreneurs, club or org leaders, debaters, writers, etc.
• INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY - i.e. computer techies, internet buffs, PC gamers, etc.
• CIVIC ADVOCACIES - i.e. charity, ecology, religious, anti-drugs, etc. advocates
4. Fill in entry form and attach the following: a) a brief resume of the candidate describing him/herself and his/her pursuit/s from the above list; b) one (1) 3R close-up colored photograph; and c) photocopy of birth certificate.
5. Enclose in a long white envelope, and mail it to the "Quest for the COTTON USA Moving Spirits" at Strategic Edge, Inc., 501 Greenbelt Mansion, 106 Perea Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City 1200; or drop in drop boxes located at the same address.
6. There will be two categories: MOVING SPIRITS TYKES, for kids aged 5 - 12; and MOVING SPIRITS TEENS for those aged 13 - 19.
7. All entries must be in by April 15, 2001, 6 PM.
8. A panel of judges will pre-screen submitted entries and choose twelve (12) semi-finalists each for the TEENS and the TYKES category on April 16, 2001, 10 am at Strategic Edge, Inc., 501 Greenbelt Mansion, 106 Perea Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City 1200. The twenty-four (24) semi-finalists will be notified through phone and registered mail to come to the Strategic Edge, Inc., office on April 19, 2001 at 10 AM for a personal interview by the judges.
9. Criteria for judging is as follows:
• SELECTED PURSUIT & INVOLVEMENT - 40%
The uniqueness, importance and aspect of contestant's pursuit in either SPORTS, VISUAL ART, PERFORMANCE ART, INTELLECTUAL/LEADERSHIP PURSUITS, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, or a CIVIC ADVOCACY. The skill the contestant has developed in his/her chosen pursuit, and the length of time he/she has been engaged in such.
• WIT / INTELLIGENCE - 30%
How well the contestant fares in the question-and-answer portion before the panel of judges. How well he/she can express him/herself, how well he/she thinks on his/her feet. His/her knowledge of things beyond his/her selected pursuit.
• PERSONALITY & CHARM - 30%
How pleasant, humorous and likeable the contestant is. How friendly, open and interesting he/she is.
10. Prizes will be awarded after the judging.
11. The judges will choose the twelve (12) finalists, six (6) for the TEENS category and six (6) for the TYKES category. The finalists will each receive the following prizes:
TEENS (6):
• Clothes from COTTON USA licensees
• P5,000. Gift Certificate from Tower Records
• Sony Discman
• P 15,000 cash
• Unilever Gift Pack worth P2,500.
TYKES (6):
• Clothes from COTTON USA licensees
• P5,000. Gift Certificate from Toy Kingdom
• Casio M-120 49-key Musical Organ
• P 15,000 cash
• Unilever Gift Pack worth P 2,500.
12. 20% tax for prizes in excess of P10,000, will be shouldered by Unilever Philippines.
13. Employees of Cotton Council International, COTTON USA licensees, Unilever Philippines and their advertising and PR agencies, and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from becoming candidates in the quest.
Control Measures:
1. All entries received shall be dropped in a sealed drop box in the custody of Ms. Neri Balais of Strategic Edge, Inc., 501 Greenbelt Mansion, 106 Perea Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City 1200.
2. A DTI representative will be present upon opening of the box and during the pre-screening and selection of finalists.
3. The selection committee will be composed of representatives from Breeze, Close-Up, and Cotton Council International.
4. All semi-finalists will be notified by phone and mail two (2) days before the interview schedule. Absence during the panel interview automatically disqualifies the candidate.

See posters and flyers for the rules of the hunt.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0355. Series of 2001.

That's the spirit

Stay tuned for phase 2...

The vote for the 6 MOVING SPIRITS and the grand raffle!

If you're ready to change the world, fill this in and send it to the address below:

Yes! I'd like to join the Quest for the COTTON USA Moving Spirits.
Name: ____
Address: ____
Telephone Nos.: (landline) ____
(cellphone) ____
Birthday: ____ Age: ____
School: ____
e-mail address: ____
Signature: ____

I am very passionate about:
☐ sports
☐ visual arts
☐ performing arts
☐ intellectual/leadership pursuits
☐ information technology
☐ civic advocacies

This may be photocopied

Please enclose a 3R close-up colored photo of yourself, and a brief resume describing your pursuit (one or more of the six listed above), and how it makes you feel; and a photocopy of your birth certificate.

The Quest for the COTTON USA Moving Spirits
Strategic Edge, Inc., 501 Greenbelt Mansion, 106 Perea Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City 1200.

PDI

KHAKI-GRAY round-neck sleeveless knit with blue stripe on ribbing, P989

NAVY shirt, P709

GRAY sleeveless vest, P739

The adventurer

BY CAMILLE T. CRUZ
PHOTOS BY ROGER MARGALLO

IT was one of those typical Saturdays that called for a short nightcap.

A not-so-young man sat on a barstool. He was in fitted plaid pants, which carefully outlined the definition of his well-toned thighs. His top was a three-quarter sleeved semifitted T-shirt that comfortably hugged the curves of his chest. He stood out because his presence broke the stiffness of the atmosphere. He was strong and masculine.

There is more to the classic, clean lines that compose the signature, safe look of most of the male population. A sense of irregularity can be good.

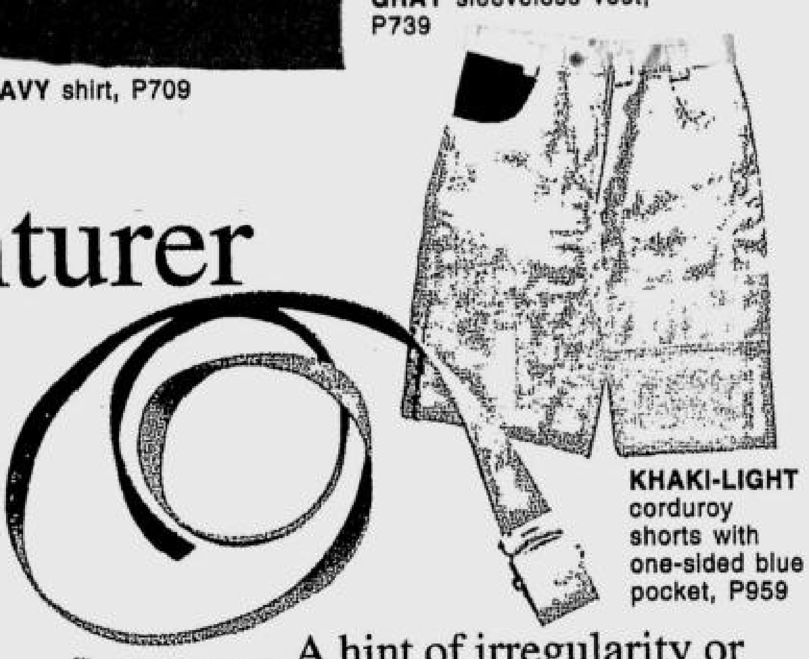
Going beyond one's lifestyle is a challenge. If you do not know how to minimize attention when you choose a new outfit in a different style, then you are not up to the challenge. Some pieces can afford to maintain a sage feel if not overdone. For instance, if you're tired of clean, classic lines, you may want to try something that has some kind of aberration, say a basic shirt that has hidden buttons and an unusual pocket. Or, denims that have distorted pattern.

This style breaks away from the"club-wear" look. Although some pieces may cross over, you won't mistake them for "punk."

Colors of muted pastels are nice on men these days. Not that they never have been, but this color palette works well. It suits the weather and breaks away from the typical khaki or denim favorites. A navy blue with a powdery gray is fresh.

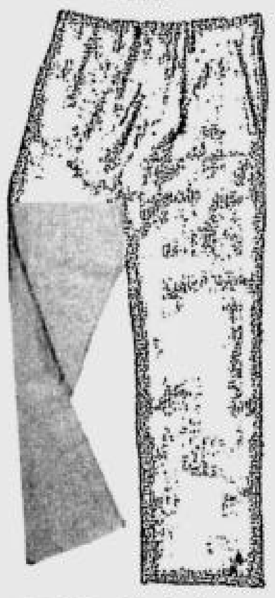
It is refreshing to see a man dressed with a hint of irregularity or disconnection. His style may be called adventurous.

E-mail the author at camille_cruz@hotmail.com.



KHAKI-LIGHT corduroy shorts with one-sided blue pocket, P959

A hint of irregularity or disconnection may stir up excitement in your look



JEANS with gingham print, P919

GRAY tank top, P569

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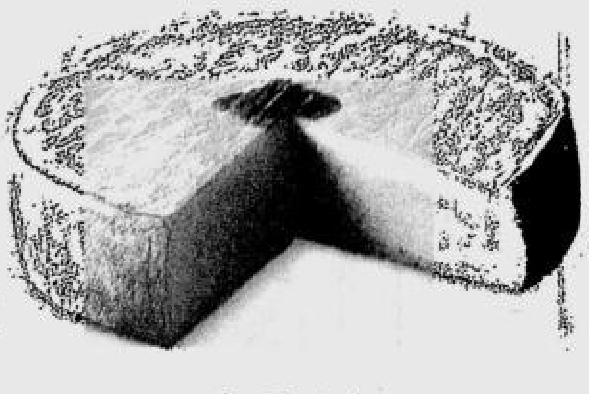
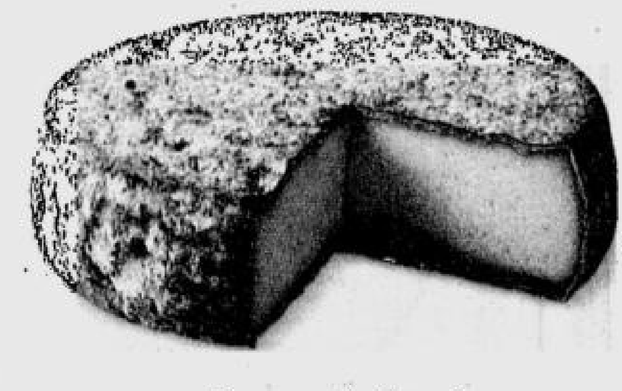
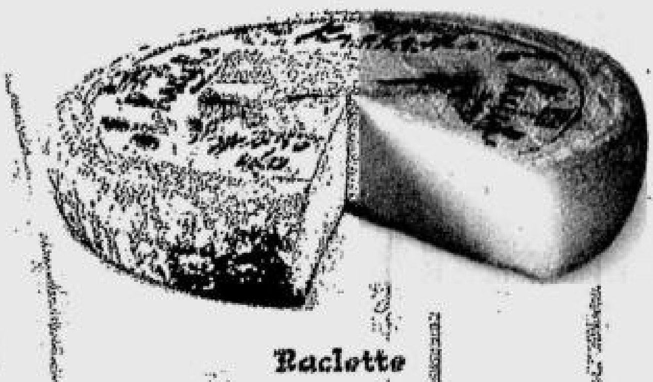


Dutch Gouda

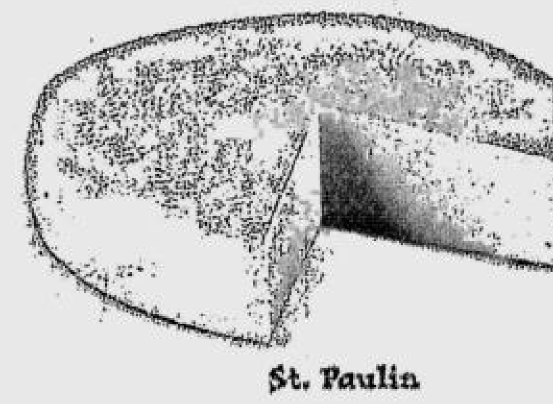
Le Brie



Tilsit



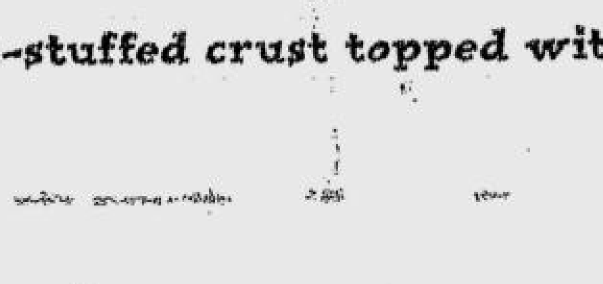
St. Nectaire



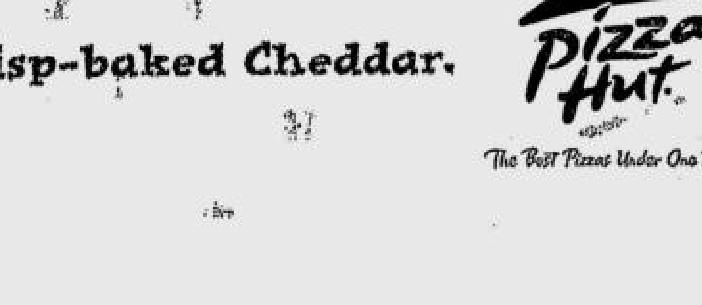
Port Salut Entier

Tomme de Savoie

Raclette



St. Paulin



The New Cheesy Crust

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A delicious Mozzarella-stuffed crust topped with crisp-baked Cheddar.
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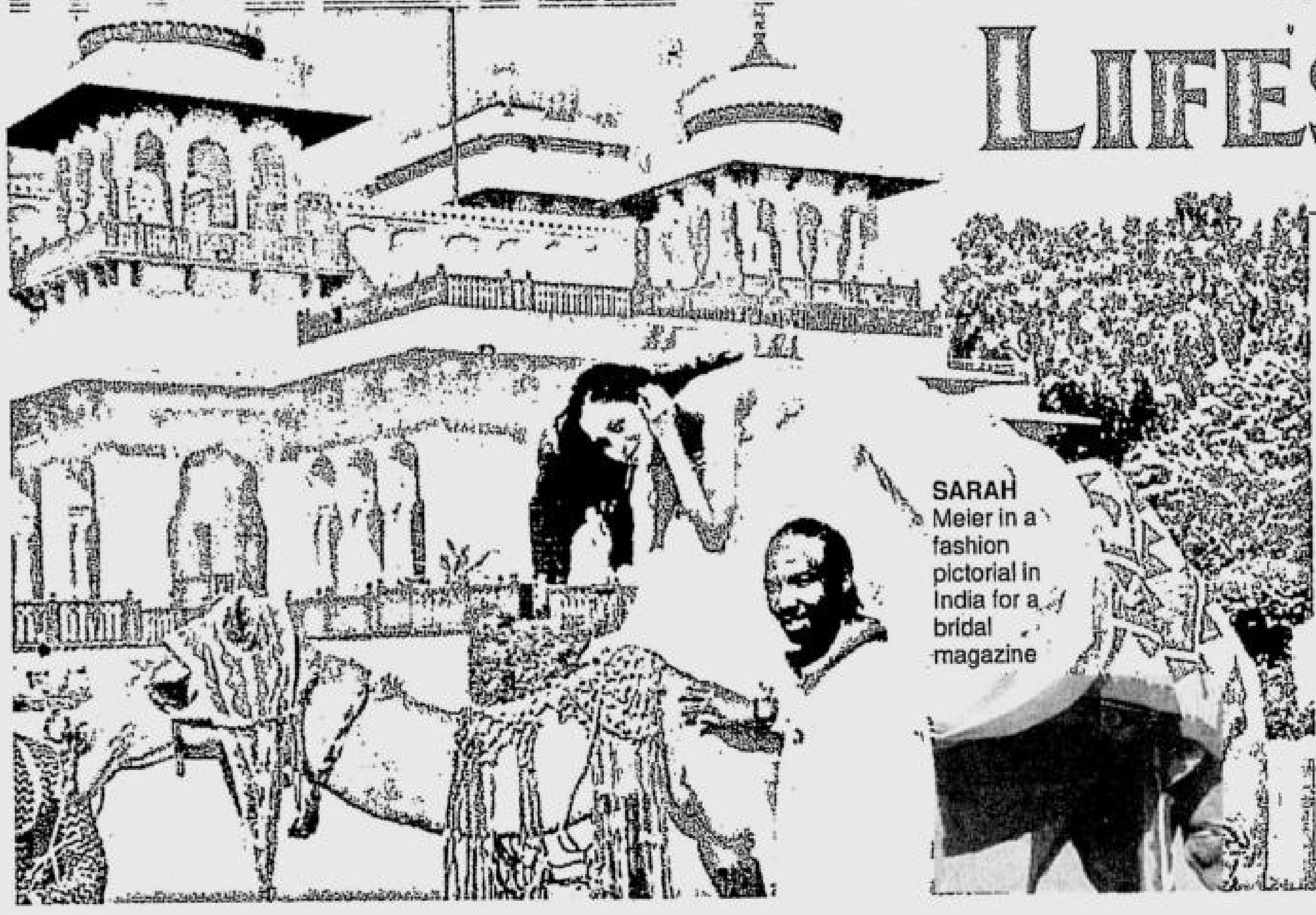
Trend Spotting



SARAH Meier in a fashion pictorial in India for a bridal magazine

Kinetic model

BY MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ
PHOTOS BY WAHOO GUERRERO

SARAH Meier, model and MTV Asia's newest VJ from Manila, estimates that she made her first million—or close to it—at 19 just from her looks.

As Cal Carrie's busiest model, she shuttles between Manila, Hong Kong and Singapore to do fashion shows, pictorials and tapings. If you flip through the news pages, you can't miss the full-page ad of Meier in a red tube top flashing a Smart card.

With her Swiss-Filipina hybrid looks and height of 5'11", it would seem as if the advertising and modeling world is just sitting around waiting for her to ascend the throne. But the path to success is long and craggy, and like most mortals, she has to tread on it as if it were a minefield.

29-inch waistline

Along the way, Meier has been praised and criticized for her build.

"In this industry, you can get put down all the time for your physical looks which you can't do much about. It takes a lot of personality to accept rejection and be yourself," says Meier.

"When my waistline was 29, I didn't feel like I had to go on a diet. I thought in some way I could make the industry accept me for what I was. When I started losing weight, they rewarded me so well like I got so much money and my

KINETIC/ p.F6

Celebrate your reunion with nature.

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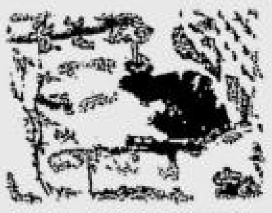
The greens refresh you in their abundance. The sunset warms you with its beauty. The bay breeze soothes. This is life. Not for a few days in a far away place. But for the rest of your days in a place you'll soon call home.

Along Roxas Boulevard, Bay Gardens is close to everything. It's within Metropolitan Park, a master-planned community where business, health, educational and commercial centers will grow in unison with the surrounding gardens.

Bay Gardens. At home with nature in the city.



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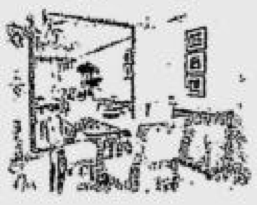

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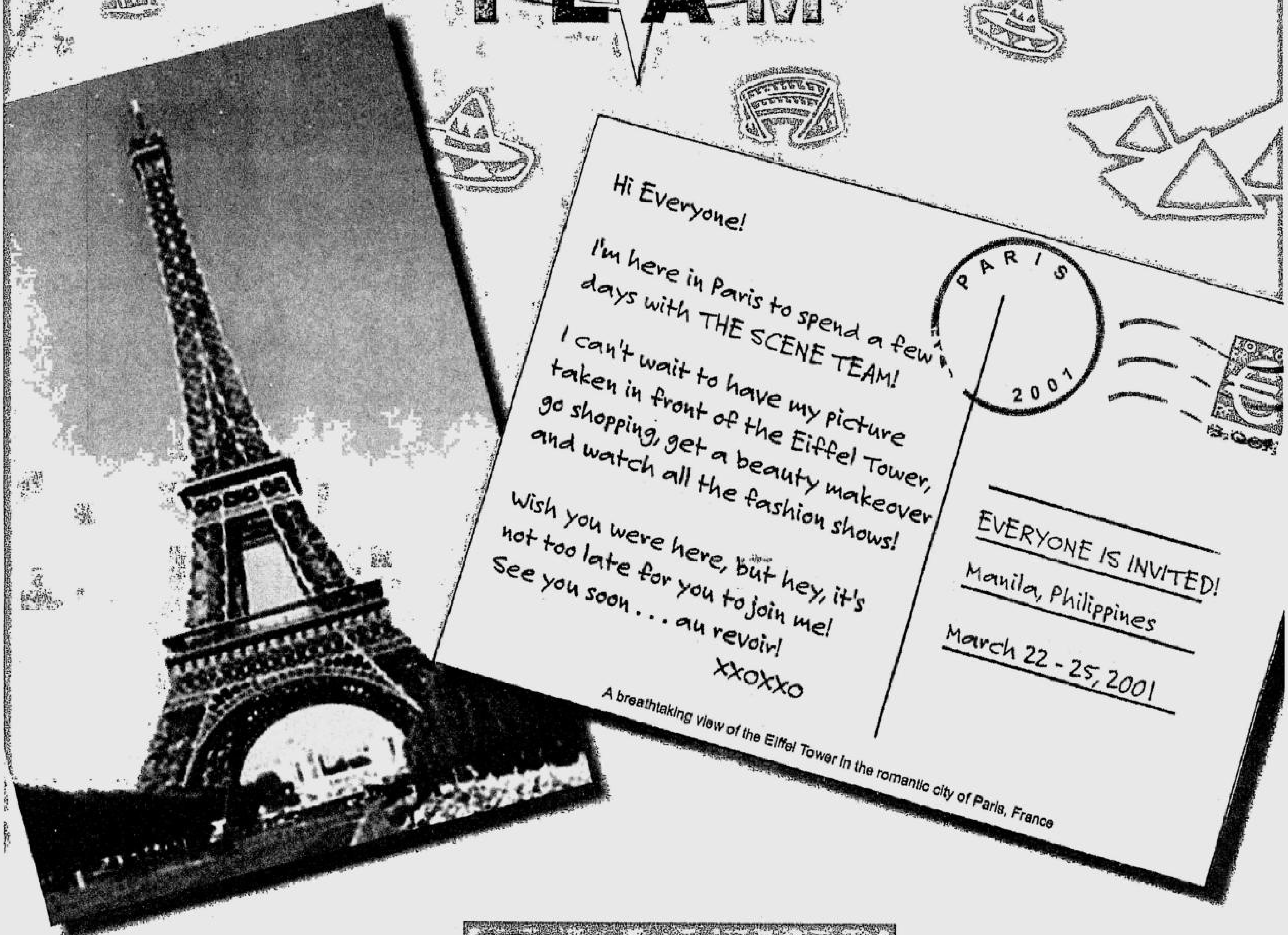
SCENE TEAM



Hi Everyone!

I'm here in Paris to spend a few days with THE SCENE TEAM!

I can't wait to have my picture taken in front of the Eiffel Tower, go shopping, get a beauty makeover and watch all the fashion shows!

Wish you were here, but hey, it's not too late for you to join me!
See you soon . . . au revoir!

XXOXXO

PARIS 2001

EVERYONE IS INVITED!
Manila, Philippines
March 22 - 25, 2001

A breathtaking view of the Eiffel Tower in the romantic city of Paris, France

SCENES FROM PARIS

March 22 - 25 Penshoppe Apparel
A Touch of France by Philippine Daily Inquirer's 2BU
RX 93.1 Dedication Booth and music by RX DJ's
Planet X / Oxygen Booth
Makeovers by Body Shop
Henna Tattooing by Philippine Tattoo Artists' Guild, Inc.
Body and Face Painting by Lorie May

March 23 Song numbers by Penshoppe signature model Maxine
Spot the Penshoppe Dresser Contest
Meet and Greet with Cogie Domingo, Maxine and Ryan Agoncillo

March 24 Summer Collection by Penshoppe and modeled by finalists of the Teen Model Search by Teen Philippines Magazine with the special appearance of Cogie Domingo

March 25 Summer Collection by Oxygen Wear with the special appearance of Karen Borja

Fashion shows directed by Joey Espino

ALL DAY FUN FROM MARCH 22-25 AT THE SM MEGAMALL ATRIUM, MEGA A

Bands / Singers who wish to perform at the Scene Team Promo, please fax bio data and repertoire at 634-3230

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THE BODY SHOP

Teen Philippines

Philippine Tattoo Artists Guild, Inc.

Staple wire in snack food

THE CONSUMER
Marietta Velasco Giron

LIVE and Let Live columnist Tita Dulce wants to know if there is a safe food packaging regulation in the country. If there is one, she asked, why on earth do we still see staple wires on food items sold in the market today?

For that matter, we ask, why do we find metal fasteners on many sliced bread packages?

"Tell them to keep their staplers where they belong, and use it were they should be used—in the office and on paper. Never on food packages," she added.

In connection with safe food packaging, here's a call of alarm from a mother. "Why is it that the color of condensed milk products is not consistent even if the products' expiration dates are still in good order? The first one I bought at a mini grocery in San Juan had a creamy white color but the next one had a burnt color (like light coffee and cream) although there seemed to be nothing wrong with the taste. The latter also had thickened cream sticking to the sides of the can."

We called Nestlé's and got this reply from Luchi Arriola of customer service department: "Our laboratory technicians have to evaluate the products in question. But the customer should write us a formal letter first."

So, mother, send your formal letter requesting for evaluation of products via e-mail at webmaster@nestle.com.ph or fax to 897-0987.

Since we're on the subject of food safety, here's the result of the evaluation test made by Nestlé's factory quality assurance laboratory on the calcium-fortified ready-to-drink product which journalist Mozart Pastrano complained about.

"Dear Mr. Pastrano: Souring of the opened sample was due to lactic acid formation. Acid formed by fermentation in milk (as in cheese-making) inhibits growth of undesirable microorganisms, hence by itself is not a safety concern. The packaging, however, showed a tiny pinhole which may have been due to mishandling at the trade. Closed sample was found normal, as well as the factory reference sample of the same batch." (Signed by Tess P. Banno, consumer food assistant, consumer services).

If we may add our two cent's worth of opinion, we don't think consumers will want their milk to taste sour. By the way, we want to mention again that we appreciate the speedy response of RFM consumer service department to the complaint of Anna dela Cruz of Bgy. 11, San Juan. Ms Cruz griped about the bugs she found in a ready-mix flour product.

Here's the letter of Cora P. Aenlle of RFM consumer services: "Library samples of the same product bearing similar batch codes showed no infestation whatsoever and finished product of test sample provided to be good and acceptable. For your information, we visited and talked with the consumer on the same day you forwarded her complaint to us, replaced the product in question, and the case is now considered settled."

Junk beepers

An Easycall subscriber wants his name deleted from the recipient list of scriptural messages. He wrote: "I find it irritating to receive unsolicited scripture updates through my Easycall beeper. I don't know why Easycall cannot just delete my name from the list. I cannot change my beeper because this is a company-issued pager, and it is too troublesome to change my number."

Here's the reply of Liza Principe of Easycall customer service: "Write us a letter stating your request. Please indicate your returning fax number, sender's name and pager number." Send letter via e-mail at custvc@easycall.com.ph or fax to 533-8090.

Cell phone-snatching

Here's the feedback to our item on cellular phone-snatching: Abenoja Rodolfo wrote all the way from Siemens Ltd in Moscow, Russia: "One tip I can share with (your readers) is some cell phones have special features which can prevent (unauthorized) usage of new SIM card. Just activate the option 'Prevent new SIM' under Security. Enter your password, and since it is password-protected, further usage of that cell phone is aborted. We cannot stop all these thieves, but at least they will think twice before doing it again."

From Bert Penn: "I happened to know how stolen phones are hawked. While I was waiting for a ride in Guadalupe, I witnessed a guy snatch the cell phone of a lady who was texting. The following day, I was in a shop in the vicinity when I overheard the shop sweeper tell his boss that a Nokia 5110 was available for only P700.The boss said, "Tell the guy (the snatcher) I'll get it." He added, *"May nabiktima na naman si loko."*

E-mail the author at mgiron@csi.com.ph

Flowers in Fairview

NEOREGELIA sp., a bromeliad

TO CREATE an earth-friendly environment, a show dubbed "Gardenia Flora Arte" is ongoing until March 25 at the LG/F near Toby's area of SM City Fairview, QC. Organized by Tradenet International, some of the participants are Beauty Blossom, R&R Plants and Planters, Mett's Plant Art and Sheralyn Flowershop, among others. On display are potted flowering plants such as chrysanthemums, orchids, bonsai, dishgardens, herbs (both culinary and medicinal), ferns, palms and many other rare ornamentals. There will be also potting medium, pots and vases, fertilizers and other materials needed in the garden. Call 800-1140 or 512-0205.

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This political ad was paid for by 13-0 Movement and Consumers & Communicators for Good Governance for PPC, Metro Manila

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MARCH 15 TO MARCH 31, 2001
9:30AM. TO 9:00PM. MONDAY TO SUNDAY
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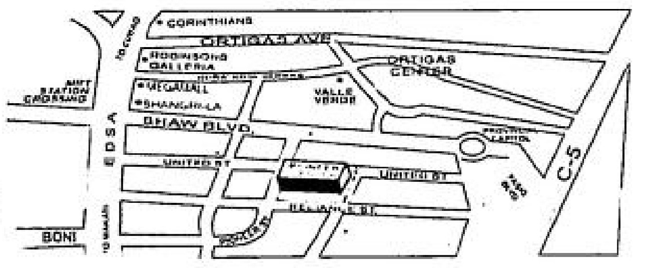
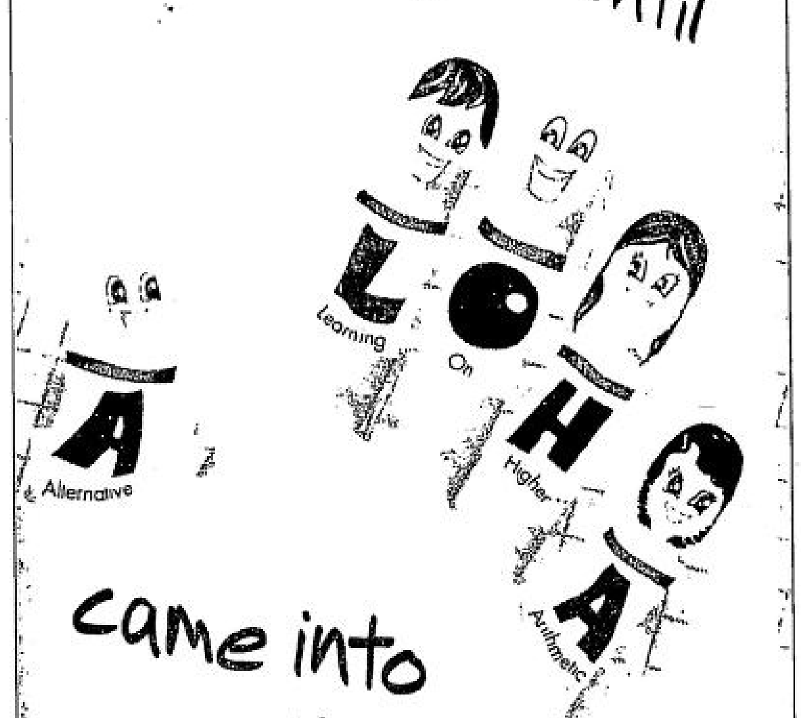


Hosted By ACCENT·MICRO PRODUCTS INC ☎636-3563 loc. 219, 220
VENUE: Pioneer, 8006 cor united cor Brixton Sts. Pasig City

Math wasn't their favorite subject until



came into the picture!

"...I join Math competitions, but only A.L.O.H.A. made me a winner!"
- Mico Cariño - 10 years old, Grade V

"...I used to find Math difficult. Now it's fun and easy with A.L.O.H.A!"
- Andrei Mendoza - 7 years old, Gr. II

Free orientation seminars are held every Saturday.

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Every P 500 net purchase at Bench/ HerBench entitles you to a raffle coupon for a chance to go beach-bound to one of the WORLD'S MOST FABULOUS RESORTS!

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Round trip ticket and accommodations for 4 days and 3 nights for two to the Intan Resort (or similar class) in Bali, Indonesia with free daily breakfast (1 winner).

Phuket
Round trip ticket and accommodations for 4 days and 3 nights for two to the South Sea Resort (or similar class) in Phuket, Thailand with free daily breakfast (1 winner).

Boracay
Round trip ticket and accommodations for 3 days and 2 nights for two to the Pearl of the Pacific Resort in Boracay with free daily breakfast (1 winner).

Consolation Prizes
100 winners of Picnic Sets (service for 6)

For a minimum purchase of P 500.00 you will instantly get a Free Cali!

MECHANICS
- Every single net purchase worth P500.00 of Bench or Herbench products from participating Bench/HerBench outlets entitles you to one (1) raffle coupon. Credit card and gift check purchases are valid so long as they meet the minimum purchase requirement.
- Fill in your name, address, phone number and signature on the entry stub. Detach the filled-in portion then drop it in designated drop box at any participating Bench or HerBench outlets
- For a minimum single purchase of P500.00 worth of Bench/Herbench products from participating Bench/HerBench outlets also entitles the customer to receive one (1) Cali for free.
- Promo begins March 21, 2001 and ends on June 15, 2001. Deadline for submission of entries is on June 15, 2001 at store closing hours of Bench and Herbench outlets.
- Winners will be drawn by representatives from Bench and DTI on June 29, 2001 from 4 to 6 pm at Suyen Corporation located at 2214 Tolentino St., Pasay City.
- Foreign trip prizes are convertible to cash and are valid for six (6) months from the date of issuance. Local trip prize is transferable but not convertible to cash. Local plane tickets are valid until November 30, 2001 while the accommodations are valid for a period of one (1) year from the date of issuance.
- Winners can only win once and if drawn more than once during the raffle, they will be awarded with the prize with higher value.
- Winners will be notified by registered mail and telephone, and their names will be posted at all Bench boutiques. All winners will be published in a leading newspaper within (2) weeks after the draw.
- Prizes may be claimed at Suyen Corporation, 2214 Tolentino St., Pasay City during office hours (8:30 am to 7:00 pm) from Monday to Friday. Provincial winners may claim their prizes at the nearest Bench boutique upon presentation of valid identification.
- Winners can claim their prizes through an authorized representative with the following requirements: an authorization letter from the raffle prize winner, a valid identification of the raffle prize winner, valid identification (any identification with photograph and signature) of the authorized representative, the registered letter of notification and the winning raffle stub.
- All travel documents and taxes that may arise from the use of the trip prizes will be shouldered by the raffle prize winner.
- 20% tax for prize exceeding P10,000.00 will be paid for by Suyen Corporation.
- Prizes not claimed within sixty (60) days from receipt of notification will be forfeited in favor of Suyen Corporation with prior approval from DTI.

DISQUALIFICATION:
- Failure to buy the required minimum purchase amount of P 500.00 net worth of Bench or HerBench products from any participating outlet.
- Failure to present proper valid identification such as company ID, driver's license, NBI clearance or any identification with photograph and signature.
- Misrepresenting the name, address and signature.
- Incomplete information on the entry stub.
- Employees of Suyen Corporation participating outlets, its subsidiaries and advertising agencies including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining this promo.

COVERAGE: Nationwide

Hurry, beach bums...before summer ends!
PROMO PERIOD: March 21-June 15,2001

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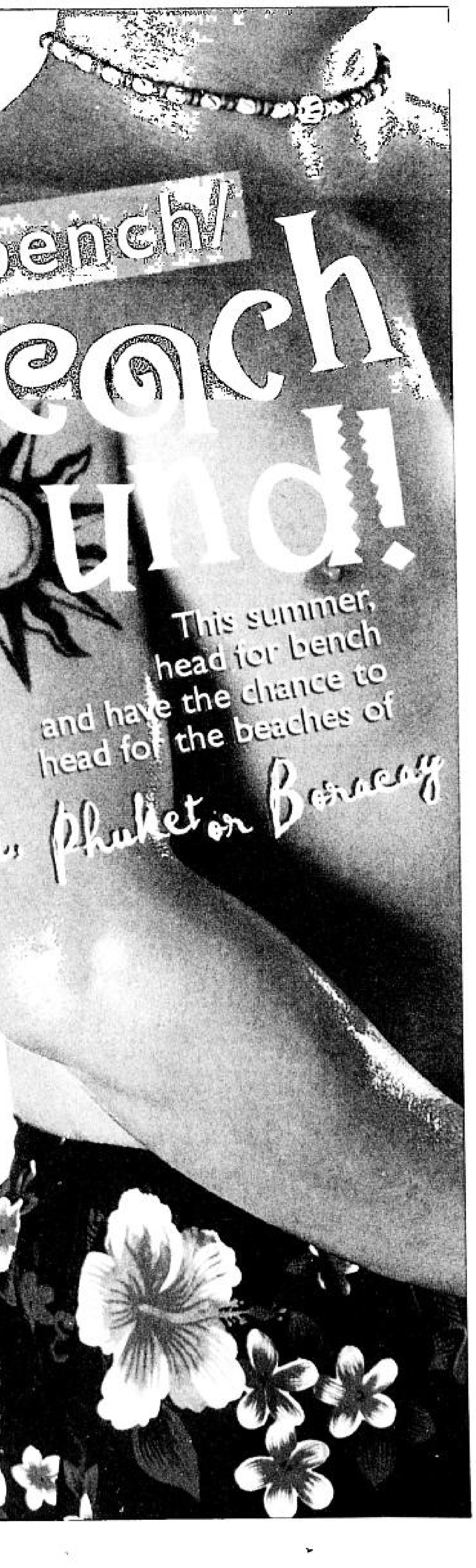
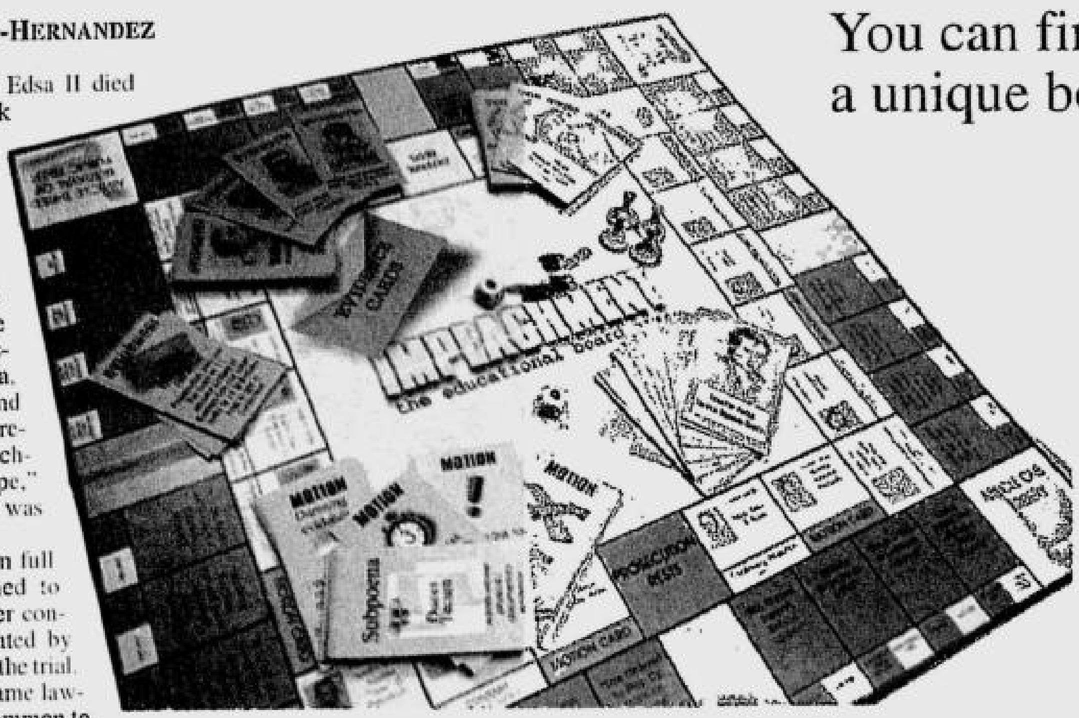
Per DTI-NCR Permit No 0656, Series of 2001


bench/
Beach Bound!
This summer, head for bench and have the chance to head for the beaches of
Bali, Phuket or Boracay

‘Impeachment,’ the board game of a thousand thrills

You can finally impeach Erap through a unique board game that takes intelligence to play

BY CHERISH GARCIA-HERNANDEZ



WHEN the euphoria of Edsa II died down and life went back to normal, everyone complained of “impeachment withdrawal.” After all, who wasn't glued to the television or radio from 2 p.m. onward to watch the impeachment trial? The trial, which had all the aspects of a great telenovela, abruptly came to an end when 11 senator-judges refused to open the much-touted “second envelope,” and as they say, the rest was history.

When the trial was in full swing, everyone seemed to have an opinion. Dinner conversations were dominated by everyone's two cents on the trial. Everyone suddenly became lawyers and it was not uncommon to hear that “the prosecution should have said this…or done this…” People were spewing out “subpoena duces tecum” like it was second nature. The characters of the trial, starting out with Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., became celebrities.

Back in December, Bugsy de los Reyes, who works in the information technology field, had an idea, which he broached to a couple of college friends. Why not develop a board game based on the impeachment where “players” could play the part of the prosecution or defense? So Bugsy, together with Bobby Bernas, Patrick Balo, Patrick Idelfonso, Jun Reantaso and artist Alfred Galvez, developed the board game “Impeachment.” And although the events that led to the sudden end of the trial did discourage them a little, they pushed through with the idea and produced a board game, which they distributed to friends to sell. To their surprise, they sold 1,000 units in a week. People were amused with the game and many purchased it as a memento of sorts. Some even had Clarissa Ocampo sign their games.

Prosecution and defense

The game is played by forming two teams, with a minimum of two players in each team. Obviously, one team is the prosecution and the other is the defense. The objective is to accumulate the required number of senator-judge cards to gain either a conviction or an acquittal. You basically need 15 cards to get a conviction and eight for an acquittal. (The elusive Robert Barbers card though, can only be obtained when the player is in possession of the “Administer oath to Barbers” motion card). The game consists of tokens, dice, 80 “evidence cards,” 80 “motion cards,” and of course, senator-judge cards. It plays like the average board game with each player rolling the dice to land on corresponding squares. For example, if you land on a box that says “Lim ordered to step up drive on *jueteng*,” the defense loses an evidence card to the prosecution. The game actually has more nuances but basically plays on that premise.

We think that the game caters to an adult market because young children might encounter difficulty processing all the information within the game. Besides, children nowadays cannot be torn from their computer games, which offer much more in terms of fun and visual effects when compared to your average board game.

Classic?

Is it fun? I suppose if played by a big group, but then, aren't all board games more fun at a party? Will it lose steam after the novelty wears off? Maybe. But then remember that “Monopoly” was born out of the great depression of the '20s and yet it remains a classic to this day. It would be interesting to find out what the senators have to say about the renditions of their images, which are scattered throughout the game, in the cards and on the board.

“Impeachment,” which has patents pending, will soon be available at National Bookstore. The authors promise clearer instructions for the next batch, as they admit that the first set was done in a bit of a rush. I have to say that it does get confusing but then we never read instructions anyway and usually learn how to play board games as we go along.

With a long holiday just around the corner, many of us will be trooping to the beach where “Scrabble,” “Trivial Pursuit” and “Pictionary” rule. Maybe “Impeachment” will be this year's game. Cynics may argue that this is just a way of cashing in on a passing event. Perhaps. But frankly, riding someone else's 15 minutes of fame to gain yours isn't too bad. You probably just wish that you thought of it yourself.

Call Romeo Reantaso at 0917-9353582.

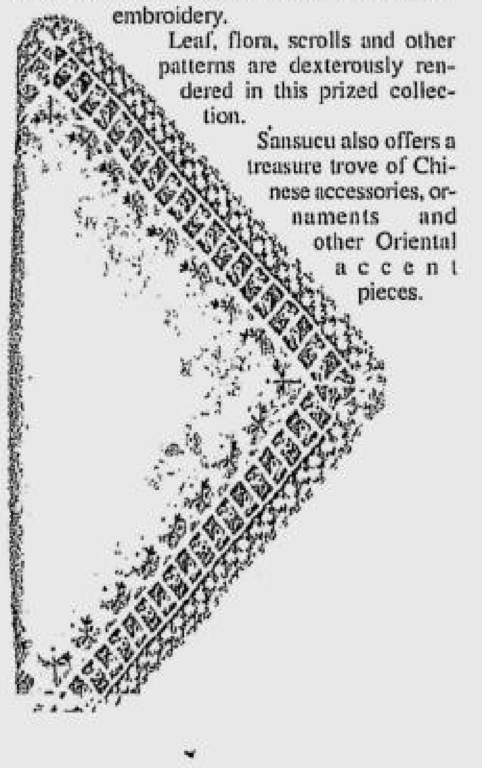
E-mail the author at cherishgh@yahoo.com.

Treasure trove of Oriental pieces

SANSUCU, a new lifestyle store at the 2/L Makati Shangri-La, is featuring an exclusive collection of exquisite handkerchief and scarves made of *valentiene* lace in the traditional *calado* embroidery.

Leaf, flora, scrolls and other patterns are dexterously rendered in this prized collection.

Sansucu also offers a treasure trove of Chinese accessories, ornaments and other Oriental accent pieces.



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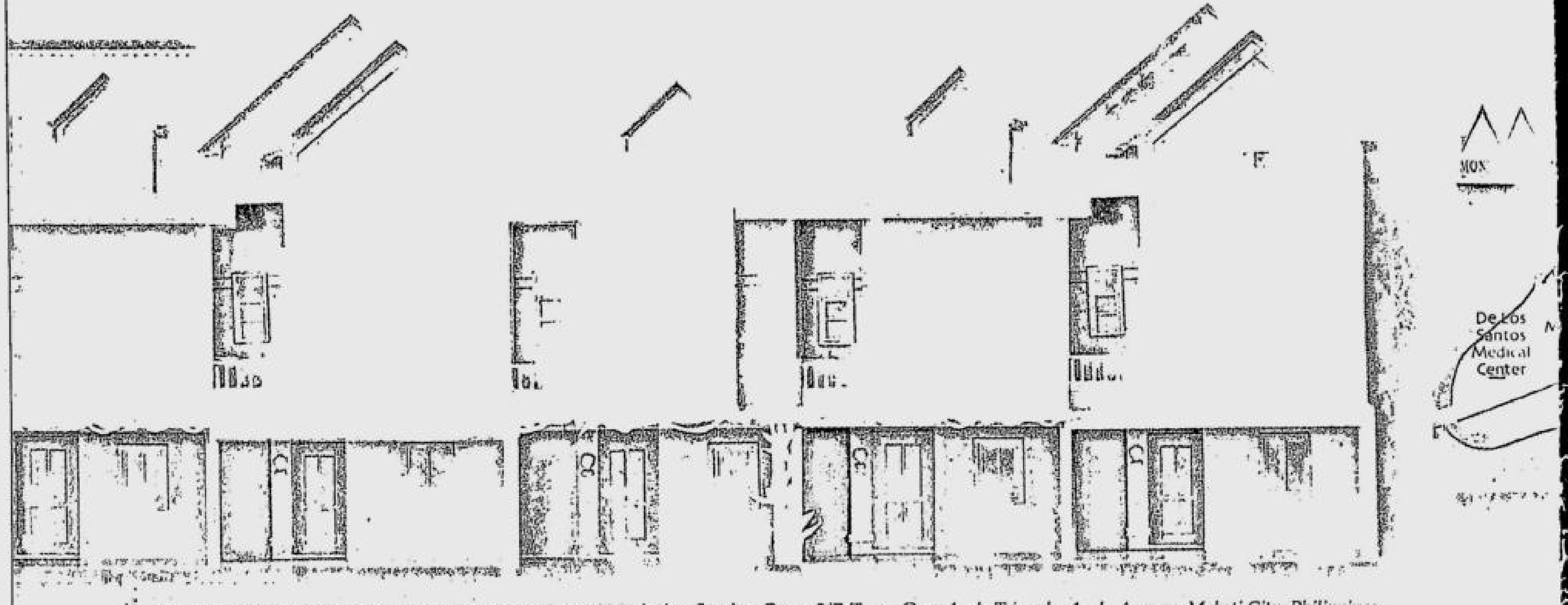
Right at the center.


MOX
De Los Santos Medical Center

For inquiries please call; AYALA LAND, INC. Sales and Marketing Services Group 2/F, Tower One, Ayala Triangle, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Philippines
To reach the Sales Office (Mondays thru Fridays), Tel. 848-5331 and 841-5512 to 26 • Fax 848-5314 • To reach the Site Sales Office (Mondays thru Sundays),
Tels: 415-1531/415-1535 • Fax: 415-1519 • E-mail: msg@ayalaland.com.ph • Website: http://www.ayalaland.com.ph

BEADED bolero jacket

Escada exudes vital energy for spring/summer

ESCADA Margaretha Ley presents passionate fervor in its Spring/Summer 2001 collection.

The collection presents the modern, mixed and energizing colors that characterize Escada style.

Elegance with the casual and sporty energy of Escada shows off a gamine, passionate poesy of sugar and spice, torrid zones, authentic Chinese patterns, red-hot headlining looks, metaphorical mixes, pearly leathers and beaded tanks.

Ultra-femme fashion with feisty jungle prints, sequined bikini tops and pants, shantung in tropical color mixes, and pastels frosted with shimmer and shine "glisten" becomes all about candy colors that declare what is feminine for today's women.

Elegant finishing is particularly young and evening dressing can go from pool parties to premiers and charity benefits. Crochet and beaded lace also take centerstage for flamboyant Spanish color while drama surrounds the form with rich luxurious details.

Traveling is a breeze with clothes that cover ground: streamlined suits and neutrals are built for speed and creed. All they need are that bit of shimmer and the polished trench and sport motif shirts for glam outings for town or country, or perhaps sporty shapes that uncover the sheerest of shirts and all those stretchy things that look fascinating with leather or denims.

For the formal dictates of industry—where business is now conducted with PDAs and laptops that mean office under the canopy of sky, Escada now becomes all about lightweight wools and stretchy shapes that are also seamed to hug the body for the "decent sexy look" capitalized with stud fastenings, surprising slits and zippers for flex appeal.

Subtle gleam in tailored dressing sees the play of metal and material that is soft and slick when holographic finishes glisten on knits. Delicate double layering adds soft appeal to sweaters and a feminine edge to skirts becomes pronounced with witty appliqués and lace hems that flirt and please.

Escada boutiques are located at 6750 Ayala Avenue and Glorietta 4 in Makati, and at the 3/L Shangri-La Edsa Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City.

PEOPLE POWER COALITION
IBOTO 13-0! Bagong Politika. Ating Pag-asa.
VOT FOR D CHAMMP!
VILLAR
OSMEÑA
TAÑADA
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OBET
RECTO
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HERRERA
ARROYO
MONSOD
MAGSAYSAY
PANGILINAN
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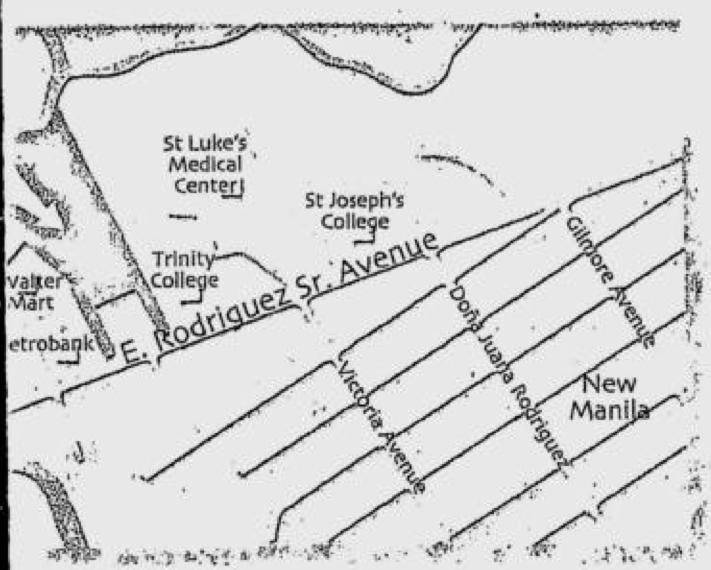
At the center of the city.
In the quiet side of town.

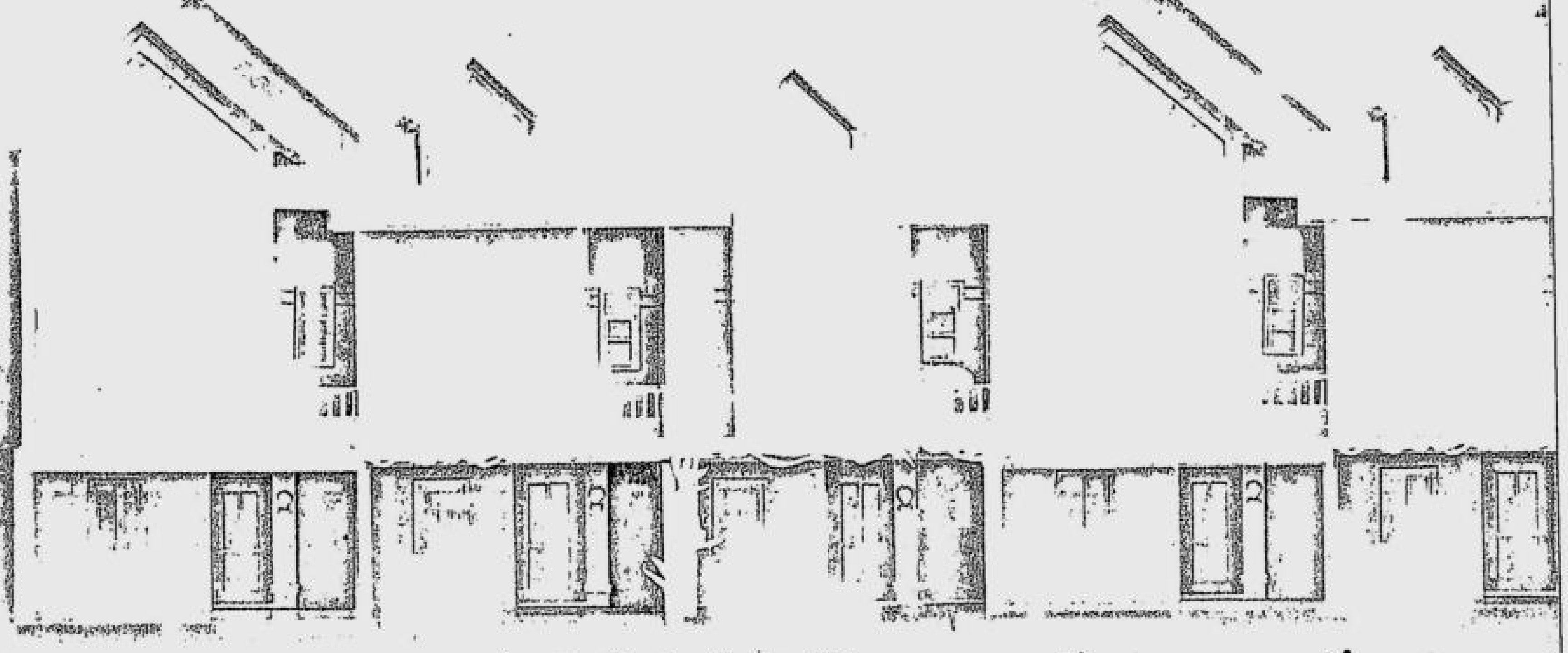
Soon, an Ayala Land Community
will rise at a site minutes away from
Greenhills and Makati, halfway
between Manila and the heart of
Quezon City.

MONTGOMERY
PLACE

In the quiet side of town.

Montgomery Place is envisioned
to be a quiet neighborhood
of quaint rows of townhomes designed along
the genteel lines of the American South.
A pocket of green space
within the busy city,
Montgomery Place is peacefully
tucked away along
E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue,
close to the St. Luke's Medical Center.





AYALA LAND, INC.
ENRICHING land ENHANCING life

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Now accepting reservations.

SARAH wears a purple bomber jacket and A-line skirt with Velcro details in stretch twill with a camisole and slip-ons from Viseversa. Electrika wears a grenadine shantung dress from A/X.

ELECTRIKA wears a stretch cotton jacket, fuchsia boatneck blouse and chiffon ruffled skirt and black leather slip-ons. Sarah is clad in a khaki one-button jacket and flat-front pants in stretch twill and fuchsia leather thongs All by Viseversa

Kinetic model

HAIR AND MAKEUP
BY PETER URBI AND MERRY CARLOS
MAKEUP BY BODY SHOP
COLOURINGS' AWAKENING COLLECTION
STYLING BY RINA GO
LOCATION: RESIDENCE OF CHITO VIJANDRE

(From page F1)

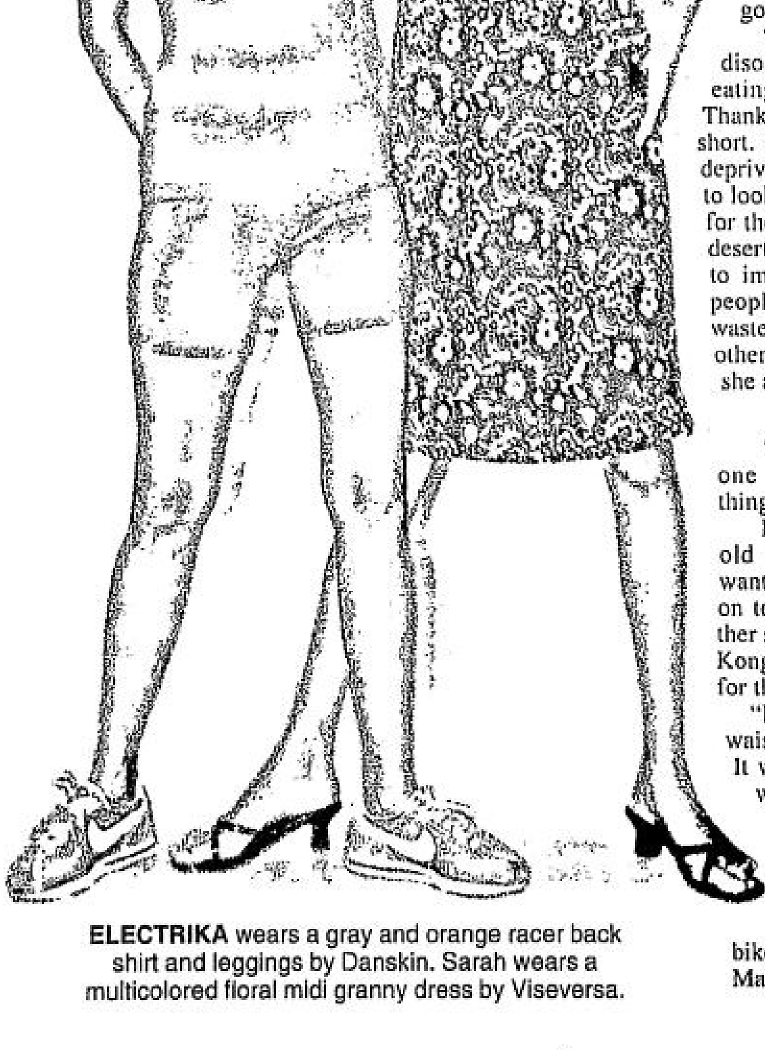
jobs got better.

"For so long, everybody said I was too chubby to be a top model. All of sudden, I lost weight. Now I came back from Singapore. I was up for an Asia-wide campaign for Lane Crawford but I didn't make it because I was too skinny. You can't please everybody."

When Meier got sick, it turned out to be a blessing in disguise. Her waistline trimmed down and Cal Carrie, the modeling agency that handles her career, rejoiced. But the irony is that when Filipinos see somebody succeed, they tend to put down the person. The rumor mill buzzed that the weight loss was due to substance abuse. Some asked her if she was anorexic. Meier had to undergo an examination and was relieved to learn that she was normal.

Being levelheaded, Meier is admirable for not allowing herself to be influenced by the superficial values of the industry. It's refreshing to meet someone like her who's not self-conscious about her good looks.

"The media breeds eating disorders. I believe in healthy eating. I'm not a fitness buff. Thank God, indulge, life is too short. I love to eat so much. Why deprive yourself? People that want to look thin are not really doing it for themselves. If they were on a desert island, there isn't anybody to impress. It's really for other people. Why are you going to waste your life trying to please other people? What's it worth?" she asks.



ELECTRIKA wears a gray and orange racer back shirt and leggings by Danskin. Sarah wears a multicolored floral midi granny dress by Viseversa.

Childhood dream

These are words from someone who's determined to do things her way.

Electrika recalls her 5-year-old daughter saying that she wanted to see herself in print and on television. One day, the mother saw an ad for Esprit in Hong Kong, looking for a fitting model for the childrenswear.

"I took her measurements. Her waistline was the usual problem. It was half an inch bigger than what was needed. I told her don't drink lots of water," says Electrika.

With Meier's first paycheck, Electrika bought the child's first bike. When the family moved to Manila, Meier did an editorial for Mega magazine at the age of 13 and eventually appeared in the cover of Mod. She started doing bit parts in commercials. The big breaks came when she became an image model for Ivory Shampoo and for a skin whitener.

After graduating from the multiracial and liberal International School, Meier had a culture shock when she went to college in an exclusive school. Finding her environment laid-back and restrictive, Meier decided to concentrate on modeling. Since last year, Meier's calendar has been filled with bookings. Although Electrika heads Cal Carrie's model training division, she doesn't interfere with Meier's commitments.

Thick-skinned

As a parent, Electrika has been a role model to Meier.

"I would show her all my books and videos. When I went out I'd take her with me so she got used to the fashion crowd," says Electrika.

Meier adds, "I never wanted to be a model. When she heard I was going to do fashion shows, she'd make me walk. I pretended not to listen. But I think I did. When I do my fashion shows and look at the tapes, I see all the things that she's taught me. She's played a big part."

From her mother, Meier has learned not to be affected by other people's opinions.

"She doesn't care about what people think. I think I'm the same way.

"In modeling, you have to be very *makapal ang mukha* (thick-skinned). You have to walk into a casting and not be intimidated. Even if there were gorgeous girls from Japan and Australia, you have to understand there's no one model that can do every single job."

Electrika taught her to be confident for as along as she's not stepping on somebody's feet or doing anything wrong.

Meier is also grateful for the guidance she's been getting from her mother and from her boss, Joey Espino. "My manager, Joey Espino, is very religious. It helps a lot that you know that the people handling your career aren't only after the money," she says.

Hong Kong experience

Modeling in Hong Kong is tough. A newcomer like Meier has to contend with representatives worldwide who have been modeling professionally for three to five years. She'd go to as much as eight castings a week, lugging her heavy portfolio.

"The girls take modeling very seriously. They are anorexic. I'm a healthy eater. When I was in Hong Kong, my waistline was 27. It was hard for me. I had to give up a lot like chocolates and ice cream. It was a learning experience," she says.

In Hong Kong, Meier stays in the models' apartment with seven roommates. Living with different personalities has its challenges such as petty fights over finishing the toilet paper and messing up the kitchen to more serious issues like competition and rejection.

"You can get into awkward situations when the girl cries, 'Oh, I'm not getting a job!' You have to console her."

It takes maturity not to take the rejection personally and to accept that agents are searching for a specific look.

Working overseas has made her more self-reliant.

"I've become very independent. It's so cliché. I don't need people to boost my ego anymore. With all the modeling, it's come to the point where I can live my life the way I want to. Nothing is holding me back. I don't have insecurities anymore. I'm able to travel and understand people more. I didn't go through all the adolescent dilemmas. I've watched my friends. Some were anorexic. Others were manic-depressive. I was just modeling and happy."

Communication skills

Meier knows that the glamour of modeling is only temporary and is good for as long as you're nubile.

"I'd rather write. At least you know it's something you've worked on. With modeling, it's your face. It's nothing you can take pride in because you have no control over it. You can wash your face often and sleep early. There's only so much you can do. I like writing. When something of mine gets published, I feel so much more fulfilled than when I get a half-a-million peso account in modeling," she declares.

How's that again, Sarah? Most writers who've earned a pittance for their assignments would like to trade places with her.

Meier's communication skills were discovered in the last Supermodel competition. She wrote the press releases and the script, taped the interviews with the aspirants and hosted the show. MTV Asia was impressed with her scintillating stage presence that she was hired as a VJ.

She hosts a couple of shows and will do a fashion TV program. In the future, she wants to work in the advertising industry.

"I can be creative and make a significant amount of money. It's the same industry but I'd rather be behind the camera than in front of it."

In the limelight or not, Sarah will have something that makes you remember her.

Praised and criticized for her build, Sarah Meier does not fuss over her body. Modeling may be big business, but for her, happiness is the ultimate end of life

MOTHER wears a sexy Maidenform Flexees corset and black gladiator pants and leather shoes by Viseversa. Daughter looks conservative in a geometric print tie blouse in chiffon and khaki midi by Marks & Spencer. Khaki leather slip-ons by Viseversa

FERNANDO Zobel, President Macapagal-Arroyo, Bea Zobel, Jaime Zobel, Sofia Zobel-Elizalde and Patxi Elizalde

The concert 'Music of Dreams' was one anthem to social responsibility and the education of the Filipino youth

Music of the heart

BY DONNIE C. RAMIREZ

KITKAT Zobel's special fondness for children goes a long way back. Fresh from college, she and some friends started an arts and crafts workshop for kids that went on for three years. Now the wife of Ayala Land Inc. (ALI) chair **Fernando Zobel de Ayala** and mother to their two daughters. **Natasha** and **Sylvia**. Kit continues her romance with children. And this time, she is doing it on a grander scale.

Centex, short for Center of Excellence in Public Elementary Education, is a program that provides the highest standard of primary education to bright but underprivileged kids. It was the brainchild of **Vicky Garchitorena** who was the president of Ayala Foundation until she was recruited by **President Macapagal-Arroyo** to join her Cabinet as head of the Presidential Management Staff (PMS). **Carol Atacador**, Centex executive director, designed the school's curriculum, taking inspirations from the State of California's integrated education system which she helped plan.

Centex adapts a holistic approach to children education. Going beyond the basic Four R's, it provides programs for proper nutrition, hygiene and self-worth building. It is, in the words of Fernando, "a project that empowers the children and helps develop future leaders."

Beginnings

The first Centex school was established in Tondo in 1998 in collaboration with the Department of Education, Culture and Sports, the City of Manila and Ayala Land. Since then, the young Tondo pupils have consistently topped the national exams givens by DECS. Encouraged and inspired by the success of the first school, a second Centex village was put up in Bauan, Batangas last October. This time, ALI and DECS were joined by the provincial government of Batangas and corporate partners Globe Telecom and Purefoods, both sister-companies of ALI.

Kit hopes to see many more Centex schools being opened in other parts of the country. It is this vision that gave birth to the star-studded benefit concert titled "The Music of Dreams" held last weekend at the PICC Plenary Hall. The main objective was to create awareness of the program and to rally

MUSIC/ p.F8

ABS-CBN AVP Chit Guerrero, Kit Zobel, Pops Fernandez

MERCY Tuason, Marixi Prieto

CHARO Santos-Concio

MARIANA Zobel de Ayala

PEOPLE POWER COALITION
IBOTO 13-0! Bagong Politika. Ating Pag-asa.
VOT FOR D CHAMMP!
ILLAR SMEÑA AÑADA LAVIER BET ECTO RILON HATO ERRERA RROYO ONSOD AGSAYSAY ANGILINAN
This political ad was paid for by 13-0 Movement and Consumers & Communicators for Good Governance for PPC, Metro Manila

SOON, YOUR KID CAN HAVE THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS!

GROW with "OPTI-GROW,"
a combination of 32 growth nutrients that includes Taurine, Choline and UTM's (Molybdenum, Chromium & Selenium) for your child's optimal mental **and** physical development.

So switch to GROW with "OPTI-GROW" now!

Get FREE GROW with

ABBOTT GROW Switch & Swap

Abbott GROW "Switch & Swap" promo is open to parents/guardians of children 1 year and older. Just bring the following to the "Switch & Swap" booth:
1.One (1) empty can (any size) of any milk product (except Grow, Gain, and Gainplus) currently used by your child, plus any proof that you're a parent/guardian. Better yet, bring your kid along with you!
2.Filled-out coupon (from newspaper ad clipping/ leaflet).

In exchange, the "Switch & Swap" Promo entitles you to the following benefits:
1. FREE 36 gm. Sample packs (2 each) of Abbott GROW (Vanilla & Chocolate flavor).
2. FREE Abbott GROW inflatable toy.
3. FREE Nutritional Assessment via Fil-Anthrop computer program.
4. FREE Photograph with "Raffee," the Abbott GROW mascot.

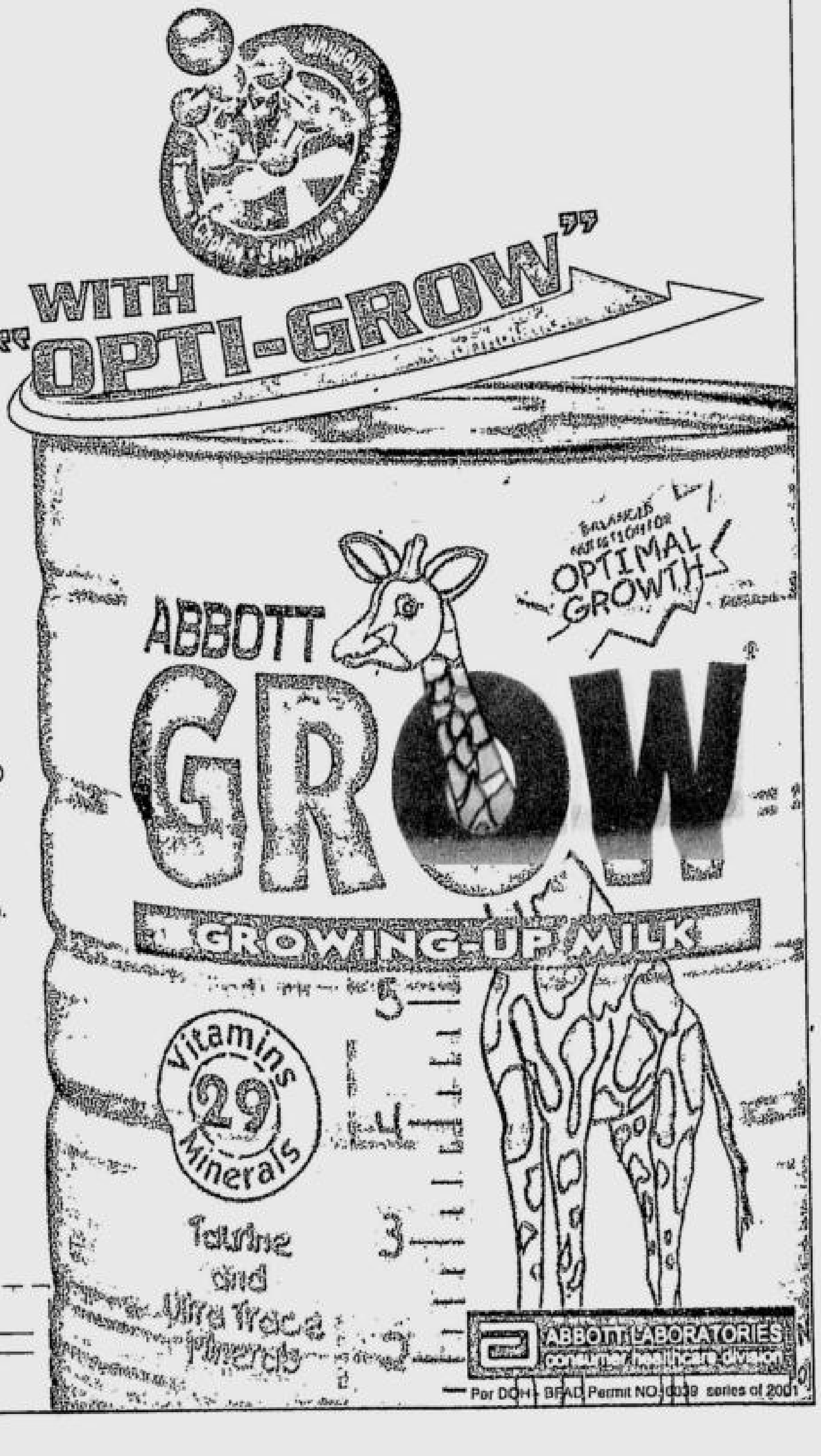
- One swap per family.
- Offer good while supplies last.

Catch GROW's Switch and Swap at:

SM MegaMall (upper GF/basement level near SM Supermarket area)
March 23-25 • March 30- April 1 • April 6-8, 2001

SM SouthMall (across Supermarket area)
March 23-25 • March 30-April 1, 2001

Please fill out this coupon and submit to the "Switch & Swap" Booth:
Name of Child: ______ Name of Parent/Guardian: ______
Address: ______ Gender: ______
Birthdate: ______ Weight: ______ kgs.
Phone No.: ______ Height: ______ cms.



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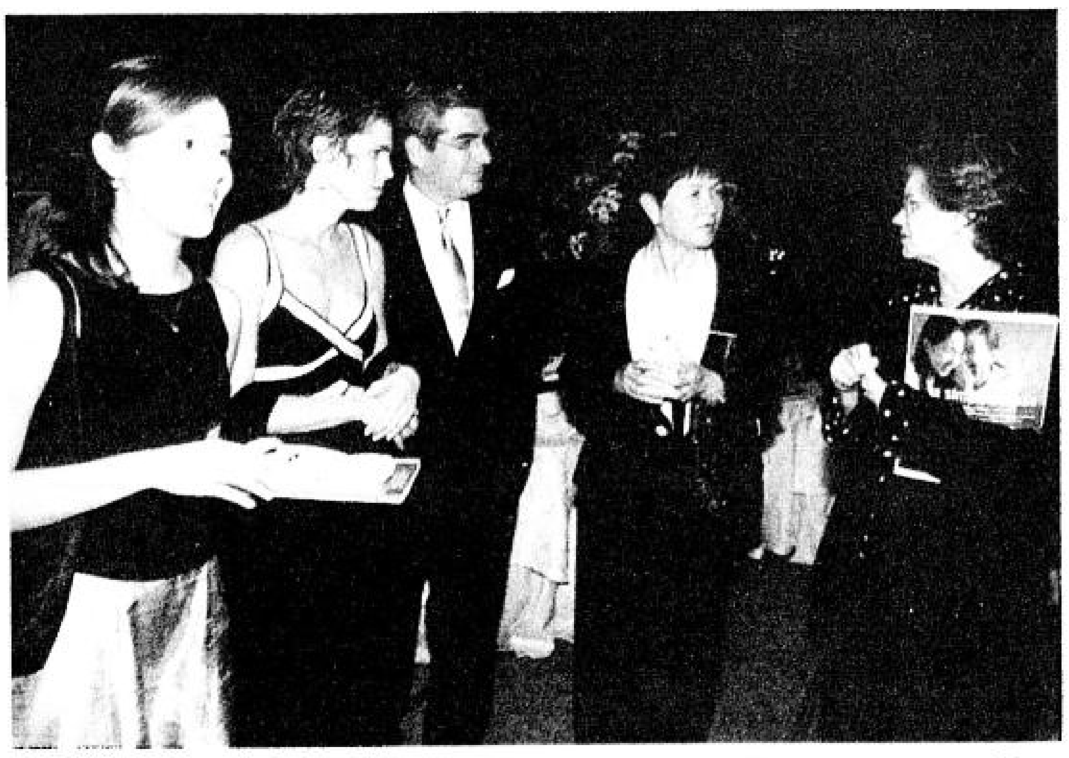


CRIS Villonco, Lizzie and Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, Secretary Vicky Garchitorena and Mary Ann Holquin

OSCAR and Connie Lopez, Gabby Lopez

FRED and Lisa Elizalde, P.L. Lim

Music of the heart

(From page F3)

for financial support from the corporate sector.

Conceptualized by **Ryan Cayabyab** and his wife **Emmy**, along with **Audie Gemora** and **Luna Inocian**, and directed by **Johnny Manahan**, the scintillating concert topbilled some of the biggest names in local entertainment, all of whom waived their usual astronomical fees to help Centex raise money for its future projects. ABS-CBN threw in its formidable support to co-produce the show with Ayala Land.

The Centex pupils opened the show with an original song composed by Cayabyab and written by **Jose Javier Reyes** titled "Kung Ako'y Pagbibigyan." **Pops Fernandez**, the program host, followed with a medley of "A Little Child" and "A Dream is a Wish Your Heart Makes."

The repertoire was mostly songs about children, performed by big-name entertainers like **Regine Velasquez**, **Jaya**, **Lani Misalucha** and diva materials **Bituin Escalante** and **Anna Fegi**. Ballerina **Lisa Macuja-Elizalde** did her bit for a good cause by doing a lyrical piece to the music of violinist **Coke Bolipata**, while the quartet of **Ralion Alonso**, **Hans Dimayuga**, **JM Rodriguez** and **Lara Fabregas** did a lilting song-and-dance production number.

Rare

Basil Valdez made one of his rare performances, singing the inspirational "Ngayon." **RJ Rosales**, a stage actor who has made a name in Singapore, was featured in an animation medley with **Agot Isidro**, **Isay Alvarez**, **Michael Williams** and **Ella Mae Saison**, while junior songbirds **Cris Villonco**, **Carol Banawa** and **Dianne de la Fuente** teamed up with the delightful Bataoke Kids for the Pinoy pop medley. The Pundaquit Virtuosi, a group of young string musicians, played a well-rendered classical suite.

GLOBE'S Gerry Ablaza

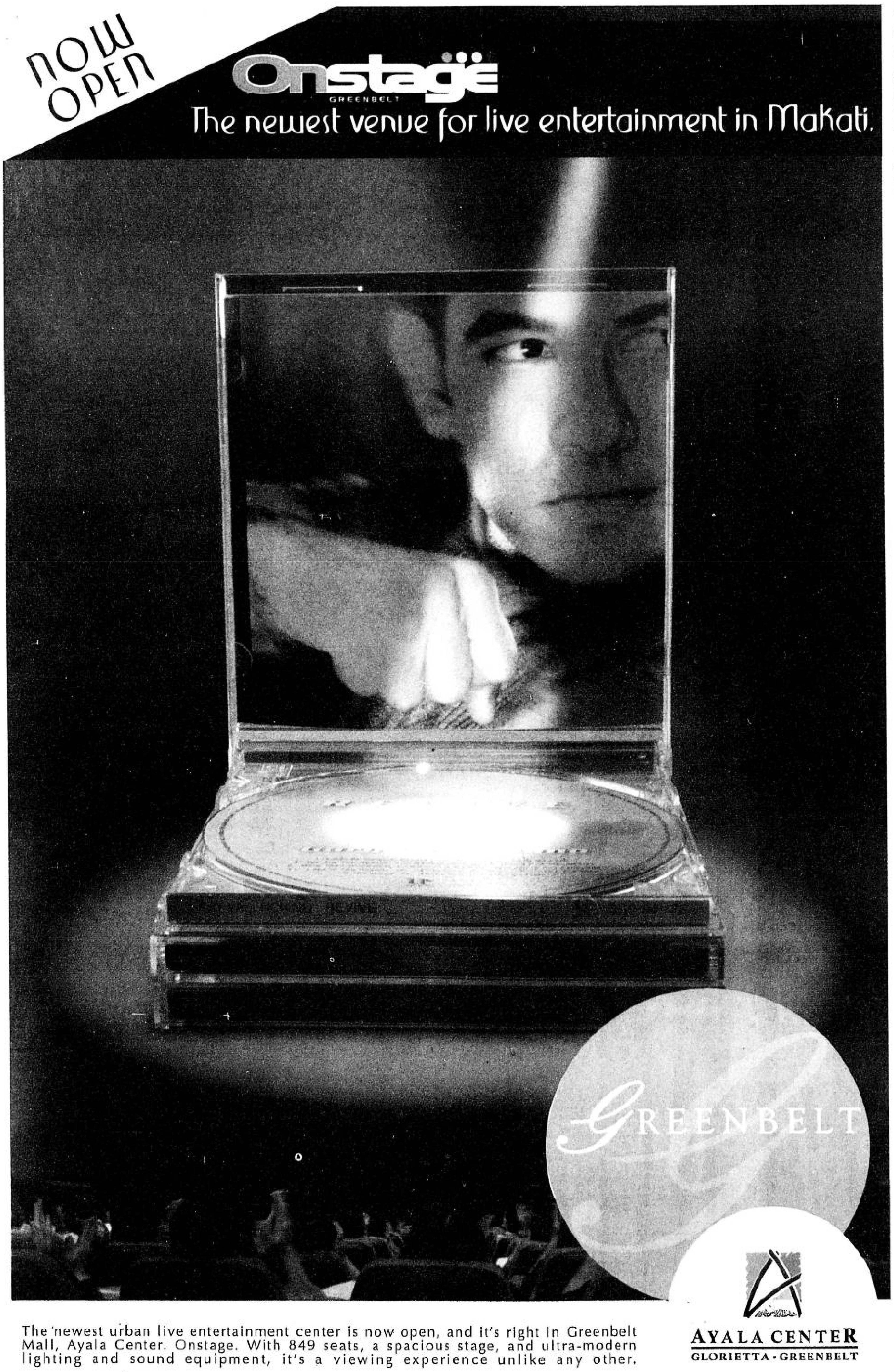
The original Smokey Mountain group of **Geneva Cruz**, **Jeffrey Hidalgo**, **Tony Lambino** and **James Coronel**—all successful solo performers now—were reunited to do their best-selling cover, "Paraiso." Making it a double treat was the Kaya group, four talented young singers who, like the Smokey Mountain, were trained by Cayabyab.

Providing the obligatory show-biz factor were **Jolina Magdangal** and **Piolo Pascual**. The popular teen actress, looking grown-up and chic in a simple white gown, sang the meaningful "I Was Once a Child Like You," while the rising matinee idol did a dramatic storytelling act. The Manila Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Cayabyab, provided the musical backup.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, the guest of honor, didn't only make a token appearance. Arriving promptly at 8:15 p.m., she stayed on to watch the show in its entirety. She was obviously enjoying the magical musical evening, heartily applauding the performers after their respective numbers. Seated with her were the whole Zobel clan—from patriarch Don **Jaime** and matriarch Doña **Bea**, to son **Jaime Augusto** and his exquisite wife **Lizzie**, daughter **Sofia** and husband **Patxi Elizalde** and, of course, Centex's heart and soul, Fernando and Kitkat. Other dignitaries were Education Secretary **Raul Roco**, Finance Secretary **Bobby Romulo**, PDI prez **Marixi Prieto** and publisher **Isagani Yambot**, ABS-CBN top guns **Gabby Lopez** and **Charo Santos-Concio**, Benpres chair **Oscar Lopez** and wife **Connie** and Kit's parents **Dante** and **Belen Silverio**.

With "The Music of Dreams," Centex has made an eloquent statement for its vision and brings Kit's dream to give the less privileged children a better a quantum leap nearer reality!

JOLINA Magdangal and Centex student Ma. Rhodora Tantey



The newest urban live entertainment center is now open, and it's right in Greenbelt Mall, Ayala Center. Onstage. With 849 seats, a spacious stage, and ultra-modern lighting and sound equipment, it's a viewing experience unlike any other.

See Mr. Pure Energy Onstage. Catch the Maxi-media production, Gary V By Request 2, on March 16, 17, 23, 24, 30, 31, April 6, 7, 20 and 21, at 8 pm. Tickets are available at Maxi-media, Tel. No. 813-8999.